HISTORY

Of the most Illustrious

WILLIAM,
Prince of ORANGE;

Deduc'd from the

FIRST FOUNDERS

OF THE

ANTIENT HOUSE

NASSAU,

Together with the most

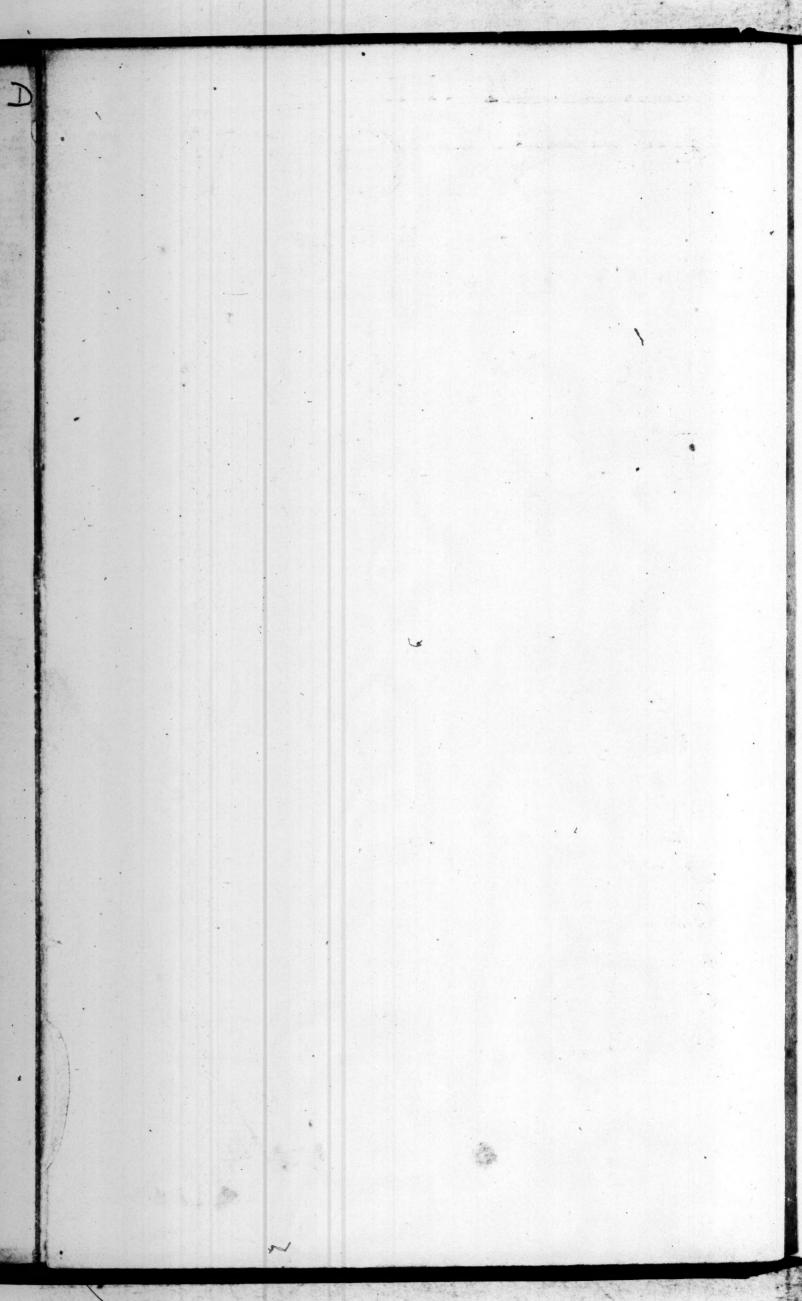
Considerable Actions

Of this Present

PRINCE.

Printed in the Year, 1688.

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TO HER
ROYAL HIGHNESS:

MARY PRINCESS

OF

Orange.

May it please your Royal Highness,

S there can be no fairer Pro
spect in the World then that

of Transcending Vertue and

Glorious Enterprises, I could not Study

Landskip more proper for the View

of your Royal Highness then the

Splendid Actions and Heroic Atcheive=

A 3 ments

The Epistle Dedicatory.

ments of a Prince whose early Conquests, and the Luster of an Ancient and Renowned Descent represented him to the peircing Judgment of two Potent Monarchs, your Uncle of Blessed Memory, and your now Victoriously Reigning Father, the Sole European Hero worthy the Addition of your Matchless and most Princely Endows ments to his Fortunate Grandeur: As deeming none so fit for the Wonder of His Age.

The following sheets, most Illustrious Princess, are only an Impersect Essay, as being perhaps the first that has been made; which however have this most Humbly to plead for themselves, that they may prove an Incentive for some Politer Pens to Transmit those things more Brightly and Copiously to Posterity, which Brevity has here obscur'd. For it cannot be thought that

The Epistle Dedicatory.

that the Progress of so great a Prince's Fame can ever make a Halt, till your Royal Highness has Liv'd long the Witness of what Heav'n has still Reserv'd to Immortalize his Future Story. Such are the continu'd Prayers and Wishes of,

Madam,

Your Royal Highnesses's

Most Humble and

most Devoted Observer.

The Medical Dedicate inter our ever min'e la la cara one Royal dichecks had beet and not strike of Appening the , alistá Mail Danker (A Rotal

HISTORY

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MOST ILLUSTRIOUS

WILLIAM

Prince of Orange.

NASSAU is one of the Greatest, and most Ancient in all Germany. For besides the Grandeur of Potent Alliances, the multiplicity of propagated Branches, and that it had the honour about sour hundred years ago to be grac'd with the Imperial Dignity, in the Person of Adolphus of Nassau, Emperour of Germany, and Successour to Rodolphus of Habsburg, it has also had this farther advantage, to have been established by an Ancient and undeniable Succession of about ten entire Centuries: no less the Glory of the Nassovian Family, then of the Signiory of Venice, that younts

vaunts her Dominion fix'd upon the firm foun-

dation of a thousand years continuance.

OTHO, Count of Nassau, who liv'd above fix hundred years ago, had two Wives; the first of which brought him in Marriage the Country of Guelders; and the other the Province of Zutphen, which remain'd for above three Centuries in the Possession of the House of Nassau.

Afterwards, about three hundred years fince, another Count OTHO of Nassau, espous'd the Countess of Vianden the Inheritrix and Mistriss of several other considerable Territories

in the Low Countries.

His Grandchild ENGILBERT the first of that Name, Count of Nassau, espous'd the Heiress of Loeke and Breda in the year 1404. and was Grandfather to ENGILBERT, the

Second, of Nassau.

He was a Prince no less experienc'd in all the Arts of War then in those of Civil Government: he won the Battel of Guinegast; suppress'd and punish'd the Rebellion of Bruges, and was Governour General of the Low Countries for the Emperour Maximilian the First. He dy'd without Issue, leaving to his Brother JOHN of Nasau the Inheritance of all his Possessions.

This Count John had two Sons, HENRY and WILLIAM. To his Eldest Son Henry he gave in Portion all his Possessions in the Low Countries; and to William all his Demeans in Germany. This same Henry of Nassan it was, to whom Charles the Fifth was beholding for his Advancement to the Empire, by means of his active and powerful sollicitations against Francis

Francis the First, and who, upon the Day of the Emperour's Coronation, fet the Imperial Crown upon his head. Nevertheless, after the Peace was concluded between those two Potent Princes, when the Emperor sent him into France to do homage for the Counties of Flanders and Artois, King Francis, out of an incredible generolity forgetting what had pass'd, match'd him to Claudia de Chalon, the only Sister of Philibert de Chalon, Prince of Orange, and who had been bred up under Queen Anne of Bretaigne, her Mother-in-Law. By vertue of which Marriage, his only Son, Reneus of Nasfau and Chalon, came to be Prince of Orange after the decease of his Uncle by the Mother's side, who dy'd without Issue.

WILLIAM Count of Nassau, Brother to Count Henry, embrac'd the Reformed, and expell'd the Roman Catholic Religion out of his Dominions: and he it was, that was the Father of the Great William of Nassau, who attain'd to be Prince of Orange, and Lord of all the Possessions of the House of Chalon, by the last Will and Testament of Reneus de Nassau and Chalon, his Cousin German, who being slain at the Siege of St. Dister, left no Children behind

him.

True it is, that the Emperour Charles the Fifth, out of his acknowledgment of those great Services which the House of Nassan had done him, was much troubled to see the young Prince William of Nassan like to be so deeply tinctur'd in his Youth with Heretic Education, and therefore took him away, tho' not without great Reluctancy, from his Father; kept him

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near his own Person, and gave him Tutors of his own choosing, to instruct and ground him under his own eye in the Principles of the Roman Catholic Religion; which he therefore profess'd in outward appearance, so long as Charles the Fifth liv'd, and for some time after, during the first years of King Philip's Reign. But those Reformed Tenents which he had suckt in with his Mother's milk, and afterwards more considerately tasted in the Court of France, where they were in no small reputation, while he was there a Hostage for the observation of the Peace of Chasteau en Cambresis, had taken so deep a Root in his mind, that they soon overrun the former forc'd Cultivations

youth.

Count WILLIAM of Nassau by Juliana Countess of Stolburg had five Sons, and seven Daughters. The Eldest was William of Nassau, a short view of whose Life and Actions we are now about to fet forth: the youngest was John of Nassau, who left behind him a numerous and ample Posteritie. His three other Sons were Lodowic, Adolphus, and Henry of Nassau, who highly fignaliz'd themselves, as well in the Civil Wars of France, as of the Low-Countries; and who having never been Marry'd, all three dy'd in the Field, generously fighting for the Liberty of their Country, and as couragiously seconding the Noble Designs of their Eldest Brother Prince William.

The feven Daughters of William Count of Naffan, were Marry'd, the one to the Count of Bergues, and was Mother to Count Henry of Bergues, who afterwards commanded the Armies of Spain against against his Cousin Germans, Maurice and Henry Fredrick, Princes of Orange; and who at length, growing suspected to the Spaniards, quitted their Service. The other six were Marry'd to Soveraign Counts of Germany; and one among the rest to the Count of Schwarsbourg, who had the missortune to be present at Antwerp, when John Javregny, a Biscayner, shot the Prince of Orange her Brother into the Body with a Pistol Bullet: as also at Delph, where he was at last most barbarously assassinated by Balthasar Guerrard of Franche Conté. For she would never forsake her dearest Brother, for whom she had a most entire affection.

WILLIAM of Nassau, Prince of Orange, was born in the year 1533. at the Castle of Dillemburg in the County of Nassau. But the Emperour, as already has been related, having taken him away from his Father, to breed him up in the Roman Religion, deliver'd him to his own Sister Mary Queen of Hungary, and so soon as his years permitted, made him Gentleman of his Bed-Chamber, in which station he continu'd nine years, always near the Emperour's Person, who all along admir'd the greatness of his wit, accompany'd with an extraordinary modesty. And in a short time made those discoveries of a more then common Genius, that he took great delight himself to instruct him, and to make him privie to his Affairs of most important secresie; confessing to his most intimate Favourites, that many times the young Prince would furnish him with notions and hints which otherwise he never should have thought of. And when he gave private Audience to forreign Princes

Princes and Embassadors, at what time discretion prompted him to retire with the rest, the Emperour would stop him with this gentle

command, Stay Prince.

The whole Court was furpriz'd to behold the great esteem which that Mighty and Prudent Monarch had for the Prince above all the rest that were about him, and with what a confidence he entrusted the secrets of his Empire with years that could so little aspire to experience. For hardly had he pass'd the twentieth year of his Age, before the Emperour made choice of him, before all the Grandees of his Court, to carry the Imperial Crown which he refign'd to his Brother Ferdinand. An employment which the Prince with some reluctancy undertook, apologizing to his gracious Master. how ill it became him to carry to another, that Crown which his Uncle Henry of Naffan had fet upon his head.

And to shew that the Emperour had the same Opinion of his Valour as of his Prudence, when Philibert Emanuel, Duke of Savoy, General of his Armies, was oblig'd upon his own particular Affairs to be absent from the Low-Countries, tho' the Prince of Orange were not then above two and twenty years of Age, and were at that time gone to visit his Town of Breda, the Emperor in his absence, and of his own proper motion, contrary to the Advice of all his Council, preferr'd him to supply the Place of Generaliffimo, rejecting all his other experienc'd Captains, more especially Count d'Egmont, who was twelve years his Senior; and that, at a dangeous Conjuncture, when he had to deal with Monfieur

heur de Nevers, and the Admiral de Chastilton. who were no Captains to be contemn'd. And yet the Emperor was so far from receiving the least Prejudice that Summer by his Conduct; that he caus'd Philipvile and Charlemont to be

built in fight of the French Camp.

These Testimonies of the Emperor's Confidence and Favour, were the Causes, that tho the Emperor had particularly, upon his withdrawing into Spain, recommended him to the King his Son, yet the Spaniards who govern'd him, having been bred in Spain, and bearing a mortal Grudge to the Constant Prosperity of the Young Prince, by their continual Calumnies and Accusations render'd him so suspected to King Philip, that the most innocent of his Words and Actions were all interpreted for the worst; and the great Opposition which the Provinces made to the King's Will and Pleasure, under pretence of their Privileges, was all attributed to the under-hand Contrivances of Prince William.

And hence it came to pass, that when King Philip was at Flushing ready to embark for Spain, with a Countenance full of Indignation, he upbraided him for having hindred the Execution of his Designs by his private Cabals. To which when the Prince with all humility answer'd, That All had been done by the meer and immediate Motion of the States themselves, the King taking him by the Wrist, and shaking his Hand, reply'd, Not the States, but You, You, You; repeating the Word, You, three times, to shew the depth of his Resentment, according to the Spanish Custom. Which cruel and public Re-

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proach

proach made such a deep Impression in the Mind of the Prince, that not believing himself oblig'd to any farther Ceremony of waiting upon the King to the Sea-side, he only wish'd him a happy Voyage, and so took his leave in the middle of the Town, where he knew himself secure among a People by whom he was highly belov'd.

Another thing there was which made him yet more sensible of the King's Ill-will. For whereas he thought to have had the Government of the Low-Countries, which his Predecessors had always enjoy'd, he beheld, on the other side, that Cardinal Granville, his profess'd Enemy, was the only Person entrusted with the Secrets of the Court of Spain, and himself shut out from all the Spanish Consultations of any Importance. And indeed the Proceedings of King Philip were no way pleasing either to the Nobility in particular, or to the People of the

Netherlands in general.

For when Philip the II. bred in Spain, came into the Low-Countries, during the Life of his Father the Emperor, there was observed so great a difference between the Father and the Son, that the People, more especially the Nobility, despised the One with as great an Aversion, as they had Esteem and Veneration for the Other. For the Emperor was Assable, Courteous, and easie of Access, treated all sorts of Nations samiliarly, and discoursed all the World in their own Language; which gain'd him universal Honour and Esteem: Whereas his Son Philip kept himself reservedly at a distance, rarely would suffer himself to be seen, was al-

ways

ways habited after the Spanish Mode, spoke but very little, and that little always in Spanish. Which drew upon him the general hatred of the Grandees and People of the Low Countries, who detesting and dreading the Pride of the Spaniards, who at that time assum'd the Government of all the Netherlands into their own Hands, in a full Assembly of the States General of the Low-Countries, held at Gaunt, made Suit to the King, That his Majesty would be pleased to withdraw his Foreign Forces out of the Provinces; that he would make use of Natives only for the Defence of his Strong-Holds, and forbear to advance Foreign Ministers to the Civil Government.

These Demands not only surpris'd, but highly incens'd the King, who believ'd the Prince of Orange also to be the main Stickler in these Affairs; nevertheless dissembling his Disgust, he put them in good hopes. And then it was. that having establish'd Margaret of Austria, his Natural Sister, Wife of Octavio Farnese Duke of Parma, Absolute Governess of the Low-Countries, he embark'd for Spain. However, before his Departure he left his Orders with the Governess to set up the Spanish Inquisition in the Netherlands, and to create several new Bishops. And these were the real Sources of all the terrible Disorders that ensu'd; so highly did the People detest and abominate the very Name of the Inquisition, and the New Bishops. which they believ'd to be Members of it.

To which we may add, That at the same time Cardinal Granville was privy to all the Secrets of King Philip's Breast, and had the whole Power

Power of the Government, under the Dutchess of Parma, in his own Hands. Of which he made so bad an Use, as being naturally of a haughty and sierce Temper, that by his Imperious Behaviour toward the Nobility, he drew upon himself their Hatred to that implacable degree, that at length the Count d'Egmont, the Prince of Orange, and Count de Horn, no longer able to brook the Arrogance of such a domination of Minister, wrote to King Philip, That unless he recall'd the Cardinal out of the Nertherlands, he would be the certain Occasion of their Revolt, through the Excess of his Pride, and by his violent Counsels, so much detested

by the Nobility and People.

This Bold Advice was look'd upon as a Crime in Spain; where from that time Resolutions were taken for the ruining of those three Lords, and all that adher'd to their Interests. However, for the Time, the Court was constrain'd to dissemble their Disgust, and to recall Granville out of the Low-Countries. From whence, by reason of the Tumults, Disorders, and Infurrections that daily disturb'd the Publick Peace, it was adjudg'd convenient to fend forthwith into Spain the Count of Bergues, Governour of Hainault and Cambresis, and Florence de Montmorency, Lord of Montigny, Governour of Tournay, both Knights of the Golden Fleece, to inform his Majesty of the Condition of Affairs, and to endeavour to perswade him to Courses more mild and gentle. But in regard they never return'd to give an Accompt of their Commissions, (for the Dutchess had privately advis'd the King not to let the Ambassadors go,

go, so long as the Troubles lasted) it was a Warning sufficient for the rest to look to themselves.

As for the Prince of Orange, who was a great Politician, so soon as he understood, that King Philip, by the Advice of his Spanish Ministers, and at the Sollicitations of Cardinal Granville, who was enrag'd for having been chas'd out of Flanders, was about to fend the Duke of Alva into the Low-Countries, with an Army of Spaniards and Italians, he rightly conjectur'd, that it was to be reveng'd for the Demands that had been made him by the States of Gaunt, and the constrain'd Recalling of the Cardinal, of which the Prince was faid to be the Principal Author; and believing likewise, that several other Changes in the Provinces were refolv'd upon, defir'd the Dutchess that she would intercede to the King, that he might have leave to furrender his Governments of Holland, Zeland, Utrecht, and Burgundy; which the Dutchess refus'd him; only advis'd him to remove from his Person Count Lodowic his Brother, as being suspected to give him Counsels prejudicial to the Publick Repose. But neither would he hearken to that, nor to another Proposal which was made him, to take a new Oath of Allegiance to the King; which would not only oblige him to the Extermination of Heretics, but might compel him to put his own Wife to Death, because she was a Lutheran: And therefore he alledg'd, That fince he had once already given his Oath to the King, it would be needless for him to do it again, since it might be thought he had broken his first Oath, in regard he was put to swear a fecond time.

On the other side, the Governess pressing in the King's Name the Establishment of the Inquisition and the New Bishops, about Four hundred Gentlemen, headed by Lewis of Nassau, and several others of the Nobility, presented a Petition to the Dutchess, against the Inquisition, the New Bishops, and the Publication of the Council of Trent. And these were they who were afterwards call'd by the Name of Gueuses, or Beggars; so nick-nam'd by the Count of Barlaymont, a great Confident of the Dutchess of Parma's, from the Plainness of their grave and modest Habits which they wore when they presented their Petition. Which tho it were a Nick-name given in derision, prov'd a serious Means more firmly to unite and foder the Confederacy, and strengthen the Prince's Party.

Who perceiving the Petition slighted, summon'd the Counts d' Egmont, Horn, and Hockstrade, together with Count Lewis his Brother, to meet him at Tenremonde, there to consult about their own Safety, and the Security of Where the greatest part were the Provinces. for taking Arms, to oppose the Entrance of the Spaniards into the Low-Countries, and their Defigns, which were sufficiently visible to ruine All which the Prince of Orange prov'd Them. by intercepted Letters, written by the Spanish Embassador then residing at Paris. But Count Egmont, who was Governour of Flanders and Artois, and greatly belov'd among the Soldiery, would not hearken to any fuch Resolutions. but confident of his own Merits, advis'd the Assembly to relie upon the King's Clemency and Mercy. Which Words when he repeated at another

another Meeting at Willebroc, the Prince of Orange repli'd, That the Mercy of the King, to which he trusted, would be his Ruine; and that he was to be the Bridge, which the Spaniards would tread upon, in their coming over to the Low-Countries; but that after they were entred, they would break the Bridge. At which Words, as if affur'd of his Prophecy, and that he should never see Egmont again, he held him fast embrac'd in his Arms; and so both, with Tears in their Eyes, took their last Farewel.

Immediately after the Prince remov'd with his Wife and Children (all but his eldest Son Philip, whom he left a Student in Lovaine) to his City of Breda, many of the Nobility waiting upon him: Where after he had staid a while, he retir'd from thence into Cleaveland, and after that to Dillembergh, the ancient Seat

of the Nassau's.

In the mean time the Duke of Alva hasten'd his March into the Low-Countries, with an Army of Veterane Spaniards and Italians: Where he was no fooner arriv'd, but he feis'd upon the Counts d' Egmont and Horn, and after he had put to Death no less than Eighteen Lords and Gentlemen of meaner Rank at Bruxels, caus'd those two Persons, not long after, to be publicly Executed in the Market-place of the same City. To the first of which the Spaniards had been beholding for the two famous Victories of St. Quintin and Graveling. But then it was that the People blam'd Count Egmont's Credulity, admir'd the more cautelous Course held by the Prince of Orange, and rejoyc'd in his Safety; believing that while he liv'd, the Low-Countries

were not altogether without Hopes. And Cardinal Granville seem'd to be of their Opinion, who, being at Rome, and hearing of these Proceedings in Brussels, ask'd the Messenger, whether the Duke had taken Silence? For so he call'd the Prince of Orange. To whom when the Messenger answer'd, No; Granville reply'd, If that one Fish has scap'd the Net, the Duke of

Alva's Draught was nothing worth.

As for the Prince of Orange, Count Hockstrate, Count Culenbergh, and other Lords who were fled out of the Low-Countries, they were upon Alva's Command summon'd by his Council of Twelve, by others call'd his Council of Blood, to make their Appearance, and clear themselves of the Crimes that were laid to their Charge. But the Prince of Orange refus'd to appear, appealing to the States of Brabant, his natural Judges, and the King himself; in regard that being of the Order of the Golden-Fleece, he could not be judg'd by any but the King and the Companions of that Order. Moreover the Prince made Suit to the Emperor Maximilian, and implor'd both his, and the Aid of the German Princes. Nor did the Emperor, or the Princes of the Empire, deny him their Patronage, but approv'd his Reasons, and testify'd their dislike of Alva's Proceedings; who, so soon as the Days limited for the Prince's coming in were expir'd, pronounc'd him guilty of High-Treason, and confiscated his Estate; put a Spanish Garrison into Breda, and taking his Son Philip William, a Child of Thirteen years of age, from the University of Lovain, where he was a Student, sent him into Spain; where,

where, under the pretence of Catholic Education, the Name of Hostage conceal'd the

Force.

And thus it may be truly faid, that King Philip the II. was himself the cause of the Revolt of the Netherlands, through his Contempt and Violation of the Priviledges of those Countries, which his Father Charles the V. had Govern'd all along with fo much Mildness; and by his unkind and rigorous usage of a Prince, who had so well ferv'd the Emperor his Father. For that had he continu'd his Favours to Prince William, according to the Counsel and Example of Charles the V. he had without all question serv'd him with the same Fidelity, and Advantage to his Affairs: but finding himself so Roughly and Unjustly handled; look'd upon as a Publick Enemy, expofed to the Violences of his Mortal Enemies, and threatned with the loss of Life and Honour; and all these Exasperations heighten'd by the loss of an Eldest Son, ravish'd from the Sanctuary of an University, where neither his own Youthful Innocence, nor the Antient Priviledges could Protect him, he thought it high time to pass the Rubicon, and defend by force of Arms, his Honour and his Life; more especially, since the Oppression of his Country gave him so fair and just an Opportunity, to engage in the Common Quarrel of Religion and Liberty.

To this purpose he levy'd an Army in Germany, which he order'd to march before and enter Frizeland, under the Command of his Brothers Lewis and Adolphus of Nassau. Who possessing

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possessing themselves of Damm, and some other Towns, made a Halt about the Bay of Dullart. There John de Ligny, Count Aremberg, a Captain of great Renown, oppos'd them with a considerable Force; fortunate indeed in their first Skirmishes; but being at length drawn to a Battel, were totally routed by the Nassovians, with the loss of the Flower of the Spanish Army, all their Cannon, Baggage, and several Sums of Money, provided for the Soldiers Pay: and which was more than all this, himfelf flain in the Field. For that feeing Adolphus valiantly rallying his Men that had been forc'd into some Disorder, he put Spurs to his Horse and charg'd him. And tho' he were shot by the way, yet the fiercer for his Wound, he first discharg'd his Pistol at Adolphus, and then with his Sword ran him through the Heart: but being Mortally wounded by Adolphus at the same time, fell dead to the Ground at a small distance from his Enemy.

But Count Lewis enjoy'd not long the Benist of his Victory; for the Duke of Alva

following close at his Heels, and having overtak'n him between the Bay of Dullart and

the River Rhine, set upon him at such a time, when his Germans, being all in a Mutiny for

want of their Pay, rather chose to be misera-

bly cut to pieces, then make any defence against an Enemy so formidable. So that the

Duke of Alva obtain'd an easie Victory over

a Confus'd Throng of Cowardly Mutineers, that turn'd their Backs in heaps to the Enemy,

disdaining all submission to the Commands of

their General. Six thousand were either slain,

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Nor could Adolphus himself have escap'd, had he not fortunately met with a Bark, which convey'd him over the Rhine; while the Spaniards were not only Masters of his Camp, but recover'd all the Trophies of his late Victory.

Nevertheless, the Prince of Orange, nothing daunted at his Brother's ill Success, levy'd another Army of four and Twenty Thousand Germans, with which also join'd another Body of four thousand French, under the Command of Francis Hangest, Lord of Genlis. But before the Prince would enter the Low-Countries, he publish'd a Manifesto, wherein he set forth the Reasons of his taking Arms, clear'd himself from the Crimes that were laid to his Charge, and turn'd the Causes of the War upon the Council of Blood, and the Duke of Alva.

This done, after he had cross'd the Rhine, he as fortunately pass'd the Meuse, by the same Stratagem, which Casar us'd when he pass'd the Secoris near Lerida. For he ty'd his Horse together, and made them stand cross the River, to break the force of the stream, and then ordering his foot to wade over silently in the Evening, with an inobservable speed, safely arriv'd on the farther shore with his Army. Which was such unexpected News to Alva, that when Barlaymont told him the Enemy had pass'd the River, the Duke ask'd him, whether he thought them to be an Army of Birds?

By this means the Prince of Orange being got into Brabant, presently offer'd Battel to

the Spaniards. But the wary Duke, being unwilling to hazard the loss of the Low-Countries upon the Fortune of a single Battel against an Enemy fresher, and more numerous than himself, kept close within his Advantageous Posts, notwithstanding all the endeavours and fleights the Prince could use to draw him forth. So that after nine and twenty feveral Attempts and Encampments, not being able to draw the Duke to a Combat, and finding those Hopes to fail which had perswaded both Him and His, that the Cities that favour'd his Quarrel, would presently revolt; which they were so far from doing, that they were not only incens'd but fortifi'd against him; a Misfortune that would of necessity reduce his Army to great straights, for want of Provisions, in a small compass of Territory not able to support so great a number of Men; besides that his Souldiers began to Mutiny for want of pay; by the advice of Genlis, and the rest of the French Commanders, he refolv'd to dismiss his Army; to which he pay'd some part of their Arrears in ready Money by the sale of his Plate, his Artillery and Baggage, engaging to the Chief Commanders his Principality of Orange, and some other of his Hereditary Territories, for security of what was due to them in particular. However before this dismission he utterly deseated eighteen Companies of Foot, and three hundred Horse, of the Enemy, between Quesnoy and Cambray, and took almost all the Chief Commanders Prisoners, Don Ruffillo Henrigo, the Duke of Alva's Son, being flain upon the Place. Which in

in some measure retaliated the Foil which he had receiv'd in Brabant, where the Count o

Hochstrate was kill'd.

This numerous Army being thus dismiss'd, the Prince retain'd no more then twelve hundred Horse, with which, being accompany'd by his two Brothers, Lewis and Henry, he joyn'd with the Prince Palatin Wolfang, Duke of Deux Ponts, then ready to enter France with an Army, in favour of the Hugonots. By that means it was the Prince's hap to be at the taking of La Charité; afterwards at the Bartel of Rochelabeille, where, together with the Count of Rochefoncaut, the Prince of Ogonot Army, and Count Lewis of Nassau, his Brother, signaliz'd himself against Philip Strozzi, Collonel of the French Infantry, taken Prifoner by the Hugonots. After this, it was his Chance to be at the Siege of Poitiers, which proving fatal to the Hugonots, he escap'd in disguise to Mont-Belliard, and thence to his Territory of Nassau, there to attend a better Fortune.

While the Prince remain'd among the Hugonots in France, he was advis'd by Admiral Coligny to give out Commissions to several Persons of Quality, Fugitives of the Low-Conntries, to insest the Spaniards by Sea; assuring the Prince, that if he could but get footing in Holland or Zeland, it would not be an easie thing to drive him thence. Which Counsel was not onely advantageous to the Prince of Orange, but a kind of Prophese from the Lips of the Admiral. For by this means, the Prince

Prince in a short time made himself Master of all Holland and Zeland, no less fortunate and victorious at Sea, then he had been unfortu-

nate by Land.

They that read the Stories of those Times. written more at large by others, would think that Alva himself had conspir'd to his Master's Losses. For having thus remov'd the Germans out of the Netherlands, and freed himfelf from the threatning War, he was now altogether for imposing new Taxes upon the Low-Countries being the Tenths of all Commodities to be fold, and the twentieth part of Goods immovable, to replenish the Exchequer which the Wars had exhausted. Nothing fo much incens'd the Provinces against the Duke of Alva, as these new Impositions. In so much. that at Bruffels, the Seat of his Cruelty, and where, by reason of his presence, he expected the readiest compliance, upon publishing his Edicts for the Collection of those Taxes, the People shut up their Shops, and the Bakers, Butchers, and Inn-keepers refus'd to put their Wares to fell. By which it plainly appear'd, how great a Provocation to Rebellion Taxes are, when People groaning under other Grievances, have that one Burden more added to the rest. For the Low-Country-mens Complaint of Alva's Cruelty and Pride, pass'd no farther then only Hate and Execration: in so much, that when the Prince of Orange enter'd Brabant with his Army, the Cities, tho' they mortally hated Alva, yet fent him not the least Assistance. For Punishment that only lights upon a few, though it inflame the Multitude with

being

with hatred, yet it curbs and awes them at the same instant with fear. But Taxes are look'd upon as every Man's particular loss; and they that are therewith most grievously afflicted, lose their fears, together with their Fortunes; and not regarding future prejudice, feek a General, meerly to defend them from being dispoil'd of the present Fruits of their Toyl and Industry. Thus when the Cities, as well those that continu'd faithful to the Spaniards, as those that stood suspected, were press'd to pay Taxes, the Hatred of the generality increasing, overcame their Fears. This the Prince of Orange well observ'd, and, as one that knew how to take hold of Opportunities, now rightly judg'd, his time was come to mature the delivery of his Country, and for laying the Foundations of that Government, of which he had the Moddel already in his Mind. To which purpose he lay still, and levy'd Souldiers at leisure, to second the successes of the Water-Gueuses, who by this time had receiv'd their Letters of Mart and Orders from the Prince of Orange to scour the Sea-Coast of Holland and Friesland.

The Commander in Chief of these Water-Gueuses was William Lord of Lune, of the Family of the Counts de la Marca, with whom were also joyn'd William Blosius Treslong; Lancelot, natural Son to Count Brederode; Bartholomew Entese, Sonoi, and several others.

These having for some time very much infested the Spaniards at Sea, designing at length to seize upon some Port of North-Holland,

being at that time deny'd the benefit of the English Harbours, at the earnest solicitations of the Duke of Alva, were at length by Tempest driven into Vorn in Holland, where stands the City of the Brill, a Port of Zeland; and, finding it without a Garrison, easily surpris'd it, the Count of Bolduc in vain attempting to regain it. Upon the taking this island and City, several Cities of Holland, as Horn, Alkmaer, Edam, Goude, Oudewater, Leyden. Gorcum, Harlem, and all the Cities of Zeland, except Middleburg declar'd for the Prince of Orange. Ulushing, a considerable City, and Port of Zeland, follow'd the example of the Brill, and animated by the exhortations of a Priest saying Mass upon Easter Day in the morning, turn'd out the Spanish Garrison with fuch a popular fury, that they hang'd Alvarez Pacheco, Kinsman to the Duke of Alva, at the request of Treslong, to revenge his Brother's death, whom Alva had caus'd to be beheaded at Bruffels four years before.

In this so suddain a revolt of so many Cities (for at the same time the Cities and Towns of Zutphen, Overyssel, Gelderland, and Friesland, were either storm'd and taken by William Count of Berghen, or else submitted out of assection) nothing more amaz'd the Duke of Alva, then to hear that Lewis of Nassau had taken Mons, the chief City of Haynault, by the assistance of the French, and therefore he resolv'd to regain it whatever it cost him. Which gave the revolted Cities liberty to take breath, and leisure to fortise them-

felves with Men and Ammunition.

The

The Siege of Mons prov'd difficult and tedious, by reason of the stout resistance there made by Count Lewis, assisted by Monsieur de la Noue, and many of the French Nobility.

In the mean time the Prince of Orange, having levy'd a powerful Army of 11000 Foot, and 6000 Horse (for the payment of which, he trusted to the promises of the French) pass'd the Rhine and the Mose, and being receiv'd into Ruremond, by that means enter'd into Brabant. In his March he appear'd before Lovain, which presented him with a sum of Money to the value of 16000 Crowns: from whence he advanc'd to Mechlin, which presently gave him admittance, as did several other Towns, either out of love or fear; till at length he came into Haynault, within fight of the Duke of Alva's Camp: which he found surrounded with a Circumvallation, no less strong to master and keep in the Garrison, then inaccessible and impregnable against the assaults of those that should come to relieve it. However the Prince resolv'd to try his utmost. nothing daunted at the defeat of the French Succours under the command of the Lord of Genlis, sent by the Admiral Coligny to reinforce his Army. For the fiery French-man, impatient of delay, and a Partner in the honour of delivering the besieged, with more valor then discretion, giving Battel to Frederic de Toledo, the Duke of Alva's Son, was by him totally routed, and taken Prisoner, to the great prejudice of the Prince's Affairs. Nevertheless, the Prince endeavour'd by all ways to force the Duke's Intrenchments, or to have drawn him to a Battel; in the midst of which his indefatigable pains, he receiv'd C 4 intelligence

intelligence of the Massacre of Paris. Then not a little aftonish'd at so sudden and dreadful an accident, by which he had lost the Admiral Chastillon, all the chiefest of his Frends, and all his hopes of any more fuccour from France, he made one more effort to draw the Duke of Alva to a Conflict, before the news of the Massacre should reach his Souldiers ears. But the Duke still keeping himself close within his Trenches. and thence in fafety battering the Town; and the Prince on the other side, afraid lest the French Commanders, who were the chief strength of his Army, should desert him upon notice of the Massacre, wrote to his Brother Lewis, to make an honourable composition for himself. and his: and so with slow marches retreated toward the Rhine; yet not without some loss, and great hazard of his own Life. For 200 felected Spanish Foot, and 800 Horse, breaking into his Camp in the night time, had almost made their way, killing, and firing all before them, as far as his own Tent, where he was fast in his first profound sleep; so that had it not been for a little Dog which usually lay upon his Bed, that never left barking, and scratching him by the face, till he had wak'd him; he had been in great danger of a surprize. But then, leaping out of his Bed, and perceiving the peril he was in, he made haste to his men, who were by this time coming to his rescue; and then the Spaniards pay'd for the rashness of their attempt, being most of them cut off in The Prince at Orfoy dismiss'd their retreat. his Army, and thence retir'd through Overy [cl to Utrecht, and from thence into Holland and Zeland;

Zeland; which were already prepar'd to receive him. For the States of Holland and Zeland assembling at Dort, had in his absence already acknowledg'd the Prince of Orange for their Governour, and had given their Oaths to Philip de Marnix, Lord of St. Aldegond, his Procurator, in the Prince's behalf, to stand by him with their Lives and Fortunes.

Therefore so soon as he arriv'd in the Provinces of Holland and Zeland, he consirm'd for his Lieutenant in North-Holland, otherwise call'd Westfriesland, Theodoric de Sonoy, a Gentleman of Friesland; he made Charles Boiscot Governour of Ulushing, and his Brother Lewis Boiscot Admiral, both Gentlemen of Brussels, who being both condemn'd by the Duke of Alva, follow'd the Fortune of the

Prince of Orange.

The Prince however acted all things in the name of the States, tho' he had the full Power of the Government in his own hands (fo great a confidence the People had in his Conduct:) For from him they receiv'd their Garrisons, Shipping, and Arms; he dispos'd of all publick Employments and Dignities, and bestow'd and order'd the Revenues taken from the Clergy. So that in less than four Months there lay in the Port of Flushing a Fleet of Ships ready Rigg'd and Mann'd, of a hundred and fifty Sail: and so continually did their courage and experience favour them at Sea, that for the space of ten years, during which time they did incredible mischief to the Spaniards, they were never but once by them worsted upon the falt water. Among

Among other alterations made by the Prince, he order'd, that whereas anciently there were but six Cities which had right of Suffrage in the States, that is to say, Dort, Harlem, Leyden, Delfe, Amsterdam, and Goude, he added twelve more to the six, Rotterdam, Gorcum, Schedam, Schonove, the Brill, Alkmaer, Horn, Enchysen, Edam, Munikedam, Medomblic, and Purmerend, to the end, that being oblig'd to him for so great an Honour, they might prove the more affectionate to him in the Assembly of Estates.

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Wibald Riperda, a Gentleman of Friesland, was Governour of this Town, and Duke Frederic vow'd he would have no other Keys but his Cannon to let him into the place. The Siege

Siege was bloody, and tedious; but the besieged, at length, being reduc'd to the last extremity, by an unmerciful Famine without example, which carry'd off no less then thirteen thousand Persons; and all hopes of succour being lost, upon the defeat of the Count de la Marca, and the Baron of Battenburg, after a Siege of almost eight Months, was forc'd to furrender at discretion. The Spaniards hang'd and drown'd for several days together, above two thousand of the Inhabitants, among the rest, the Ministers, the chief Magistrates of the City, and the Commanders of the Garri-Riperda the Governour, and Lancelot, natural Son to Count Brederode, had their heads struck off.

But these Cruelties were so far from doing the Spaniards any kindness, that they made the People more obstinate in their resistance in other places, so that they were repuls'd from the little City of Alkmaer, and the Prince of Orange at the same time, with so much the more ease surpriz'd Gertrudenberg, which was no small

security to the City of Dort.

On the other side, Middleburg, the Capital City of Zeland, with no less obstinacy defended by Mondragonio, after a Siege of two years, and the expence of seven Millions in vain attempts of the Spaniards to relieve it, was at length surrender'd, and reunited to the rest of the Province, which, together with the utter overthrow of the Spanish Fleet that was sent to its relief, being all either stranded or sir'd, and the Admiral slain, in some measure made amends for the loss of Harlem.

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A little before this, the Duke of Alva and his Son were both recall dout of the Low-Countries, and Lewis Requesenes, great Commander of the Order of St. Jago, was sent to succeed him: the King of Spain being at length convinced, that cruelty and rigour did but render the Netherlanders more obstinately averse to

his Government.

Requesenes had but an ill beginning, to behold that unfortunate Sea Engagement between the Prince of Orange's and the Spanish Fleet. wherein the Spaniards lost so many Ships and Men. But he had better success by Land to the vast prejudice of the Prince. For Count Lewis of Nassau his Brother, having brought a fourth Army out of Germany of seven thoufand Foot, and four thousand Horse, was defeated near to Nimmeghen, by Sancho d'Avila, while the Germans, according to their usual custom, were all in mutiny, and demanding their Pay, instead of minding to defend their own Lives, and their General's honour. this Battel, or rather flaughter of the Naffovians, Count Lewis himself was slain, together with his Brother Count Henry, and Chri-Ropher Count Palatine.

The Spaniards, puft up with this success, laid siege to the City of Leyden, and had reduc'd it to that extremity, that the People were ready to perish for hunger; yet such was the obstinacy of the Defendants, that they vow'd they would eat up their left arms after their Provisions was spent, before they would deliver the Town. The Prince therefore being inform'd of their distress, by Pidgeons let

loofe

loose out of the Town, and finding that a desperate Disease must have a desperate Cure. order'd about two hundred Flat-Bottom'd Boats to be provided, of twelve, fourteen, and fixteen Oars apiece, the biggest of which carry'd each of them two great Guns. were Mann'd with Seamen sent for out of Zeland, and laden with Provisions of all forts: and when all things were ready, Hollanders made holes in the Damm, and flighted the Bulkwark rais'd against the fury of the Salt and Fresh-water-Tides of the Ysell and Mose, by which means those two great Rivers, together with the Sea it self, being lett in upon the level Land, overflow'd the Leaguer of the Spaniards, and cover'd the whole Country with such a prodigious Deluge, that they who liv'd forty Miles off brought Supplies of Men and Victuals to the Besieged. So that the Spaniards after they had nail'd their Cannon, and funk them in the Ditches, after four Months toyl were forc'd to raise their Siege; not without great loss of Men, being pursu'd by the Dutch in their Boats with long Grappling Irons, wherewith they drown'd or drew up Prisoners into their Vessels, a considerable number of the Enemy.

After this Deliverance, the Prince of Orange was receiv'd into Leiden, as a Deity who had preserv'd them from the hands of an Inhumane and Barbarous Adversary. For they lookt upon him alone as the Instrument of their Preservation: in regard, that tho' he would not proceed to the breaking of the

Damm,

Damm, without the Consent of the States, yet he first proposed it: and having received for answer, the they knew the damage they should receive thereby. That a Country dispeopled was better than a Country lost, then he went forward with his Design. And at the same time it was, to alleviate in some measure the sufferings of the City, that he erected the University of Leyden, and endowed it with large Priviledges and Ample

Annual Revenues.

On the other side Requesenes, to recompence this loss, about the same time made himself Master of Zuric-see; tho neither he nor the Spaniards long enjoy'd the Fruits of his Conquest. For the Spaniards and Germans, knowing with what Toyl and Labour they had obtain'd so great an Advantage, and understanding that Requesenes was dead, grew Insolent upon the score of their Merits, demanded their Pay with a more than ordinary Pride; and quitting Schelde and Doveland, which they had so lately conquer'd with so much Glory, while Zuric-see was guarded only with a few Walloons, ran up and down the Province of Brabant uncertain where to vent their Madness; till at length they fell upon Maestrick and Antwerp it self; both which Towns they Sack'd and Plunder'd, to the value of four and twenty Millions; insomuch that the Plunder of those Cities was call'd the Fury of the Spaniards. And so insupportable was this same Licentious Extravagance of these Foreign Mutineers, that those Provinces, which till then had continu'd in their Obedience to King Philip, declar'd the Spaniards

Spaniards Enemies to their King and Country, and call'd in the Prince of Orange to their Succour. And then it was that all the Provinces of the Netherlands, except Luxemburgh enter'd into an Association of mutual Defence, and concluded that famous Treaty of Peace at Gaunt, in the Year 1576. wherein they folemnly swore to assist each other in the Delivery of their Country from Spanish Bondage. In pursuance of which Treaty, the Castles of Gaunt, Valenciennes, Cambray, Utrecht and Groning were demolish'd, and all

Friesland declar'd for the States.

To remedy these Disorders, Don John of Austria was dispatch'd into the Netherlands to succeed Requesenes. Who at first carry'd himself with great Mildness and Affability. But the Prince of Orange, whose foresight always reach'd the bottom of the Spanish Designs, continually forewarn'd the Netherlanders, not to fuffer themselves to be deluded with the fair and gilded Promises, which Don John made them on the King's behalf; assuring them that Princes once provok'd might dissemble for a time, but never would forget the Injuries they receiv'd, but only till they had an Opportunity to revenge them.

However they suffer'd themselves for a time to be sooth'd by the perpetual Edict, made the 17 of February in the Year 1577. between the States on the one part, and the King of Spain on the other; at the Mediation of Rodolphus the Emperour, and the Duke of Cleaves and Juliers; whereby the Treaty of Gaunt was ratify'd; the holding of the States-

General

General consented to; and the departure of the Spaniards and Germans out of the Netherlands decreed, with this further Clause, That they should leave all the Provision, Ammunition and Artillery behind them in all the Places which they held. But the Prince of Orange, together with the States of Holland and Zeland, protested against their Edict, alledging that many things, particularly fuch Articles as concern'd Religion, were not

fufficiently Reconcil'd and Explain'd.

But no fooner was Don John receiv'd with great Pomp into Bruffels, and fetl'd in his Government, but the States found the Truth of the Prince's Admonitions; as having difcover'd by several Intercepted Letters written in Characters, and decipher'd by Philip de Marnix, that Don John had Private Orders to steer another Course, which was to ruine both them and all their Adherents. Then opening their Eyes, they resolv'd to

oppose him by force of Arms.

On the one side Don John seiz'd upon the Castle of Namur and Charlemont, recall'd the Spanish and German Troops, and prepar'd for War. On the other side, the States demolish'd the Castle of Antwerp, and join'd with the Prince of Orange. Who, coming to Breda with his third Wife Charlotta de Bourbon, was invited by the States-General to revive their Hearts with his Presence. To which end the Burghers of Antwerp march'd forth of the Town a good way to meet him, and conducted him to their City, where the States-General deputed the Abbots of Villiers and Maroles,

Maroles, and the Barons of Fresin and Caprias to beseech him to come with all speed to Brussels; whither he went by Water in a Barge, the Burghers of Antwerp marching on the one side of the Canall, and the Burghers of Brussels on the other; and being received into the City with great Pomp and the joyful Acclamations of all the People, he was declared Governour of Brabant, and Superintendant of the Revenues of the Provinces.

And here we are to observe, that tho' the Life of this same Noble and Heroick Prince, seem'd upon many occasions to be a kind of Prosecution of Adverse Fortune, enough to have funk a Resolution less determin'd and undaunted then His, yet he had also frequently those pleasing Satisfactions of inward Joy and Content, with which the most Insensible and Self-denying Stoics, dare not deny themselves to be sometimes irresistably affected, in the midst of the Congratulations and happy Wishes of the People, whose Hearts and Affections they entirely possess. Whereas there are some Princes who have onely the Command of their Subjects Bodies, not the least of Charming Empire over their Souls, which is the more Noble Part of Dominion.

But in regard that Vertue seldom sails of being envy'd; and that a High and Unblemish'd Reputation, is more malign'd than a tarnish'd Popularity, this Magnissicent Reception of the Prince of Orange, together with the Authority which the States and People willingly surrender'd to his Illustrious Birth, his surpassing Prudence, his vast Experience.

rience, and his extraordinary Merits, render'd him soon suspected to several Great Lords and Persons of Quality, of whom the chief were the Duke of Arscot, the Marquess of Havrez, his Brother; the Count of Lalen, and his Brother the Baron of Montigny, the Vifcount of Gaunt, Count d'Egmont, and several Who, jealous of his Grandeur, sent away privately the Sieur de Malstede, to offer the Government of the Netherlands to the Arch-Duke Matthias, the Emperour Rodolphus's Brother. And such was the speed which their Envoy made, and so pressing his Importunity to the Arch-Duke to make hafte, that he arrived from Vienna at Cologne, before it was known that he had been fent for.

Those Lords had a consident Conceit that they should have all the Power of the Government under the Arch-Duke, as looking upon them to be the Authours of his Advancement; and that at the same time they should be able to undermine and ruine the Authority of the Prince of Orange, by setting over him a Superiour of that High Qua-

lity.

But the Prince of Orange, who well knew how to give way to Times and Seasons, and to convert into Antidotes the Poisons that were prepar'd for him, took no more notice of their Proceedings, then only to make a modest Complaint in the Assembly of Estates, that they had sent for the Arch-Duke without imparting to him a Resolution of that Importance; since it had been agreed that nothing should be concluded but by common Consent,

Consent, more especially in Affairs of so great Concernment; however that he would by no means oppose either the Reception or Advancement of the Arch-Duke. But afterwards, having regain'd to his Party the Count of Lalin, who had the Chief Command in the States Army, he prevailed so far by his Address and Prudent Behaviour, that the Arch-Duke being made Governour upon certain Conditions, he himself was chosen Lieutenant General by the greatest number of Voices in the General Assembly, and had the Chief Management of Affairs under the Arch-Duke, by the voluntary permission of a Person that understood his Extraordinary Abilities. And thus did the Prince of Orange, by his admirable Prudence and good Conduct, cause that Storm to fall upon the heads of his Enemies which they had rais'd for his Destruction. For the Duke of Arschot. the Head of the Conspiracy against the Prince of Orange, was soon after Arrested in the Capital City of his Government by the Sieur de Riboue, a Favourite of the Prince's ! And that he might be the more sensible of his Misfortune, his best Friends, the Bishops of Tpres and Bruges, together with the Sieurs Rassinguem and Seuvequem, with several others of his Creatures were arrested at the same time.

On the other side, Don John of Austria, being now declar'd the Publick Enemy of the Country, sent for the Spanish and Italian Souldiers, which had left the Netherlands in pursuance of the perpetual Edict, with a great number of D 2 Germans.

Germans, and at Gemblours defeated the Army of the States Commanded by the Sieur de Goignie, in the absence of the Count de Lalin, and the Principal Officers, then revelling at a Wedding at Brussels.

However this loss was foon after recompenc'd by the Surrender of the Famous City of Amsterdam, which was united to the Body of Holland eight days after the

Defeat.

Nevertheless Don John, puft up with his success at Gemblours, march'd with a numerous Force to attacque the Army of the States at Rimenant near Mechlin, then Commanded by the Count of Bossut. But he found that wary General so well provided to receive him, that he was forc'd to retreat in confusion with considerable loss. Insomuch that the Bossut were highly commended for his caution at the beginning of the Battel, he was no less tax'd for losing the opportunity of pursuing the retreating Enemy with all his Forces, which spoil'd the conclusion of his Victory.

In the mean time, the States General Decreed a Toleration of both Religions in the Provinces; which was call'd the Peace of Religion. But this Peace not being approved by all the Confederates, produced a Third Party, which was called the Party of the Male-Contents; of which number were the Baron of Montigny, the Viscount of Gaunt, Valentine de Pardieu, the Baron of Caprias, and others. By whose means the Provinces of Hainault and Arthois returned to their Obe-

dience

dience to the Spaniard, notwithstanding all the Remonstrances of the States-General, as well by their Letters, as by the Mouths of their Commissioners.

Nevertheless the States having reinforc'd their Armies out of Germany, sent several Propositions to Don John; amongst the rest, to deliver the Government of the Netherlands to the Archduke Matthias, upon the same Conditions to which they had already fworn; as also that the Province of Limburg, and what-ever he had taken either by force or furrender in Haynault and Brabant, should be restor'd to the States. But in the midst of these Transactions, Don John, no less sick in Mind then in Body, as believing himself to be suspected in the Spanish Court, upon the death of his Secretary Escovedo, suppos'd to be poyson'd in Spain, departed this Life in the Camp at Namur, to whom succeeded Alexander Farnese, Duke of Parma; who by his obliging behaviour, and the large Promises which he made them, greatly encreas'd the Number of the Malecontents, and weaken'd the Confederacy of the States.

But the Prince of Orange more vigilant, much about the same time, that is to say, upon the 22. of January, 1579. lay'd the first Corner-stone of the Republick of the Low-Countries, by the strict Union which he made at Utrecht, between the Provinces of Guelders, Zutphen, Holland, Zeland, Friesland and the Ommelands, confisting of five and twenty Articles, of which the chiefest Heads were, That

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the Provinces should joyn in mutual Assistance against the common Enemy, and neither treat of Peace or War, but by a general Consent, yet without prejudice to the Priviledges or Customs of any of the Provinces. This Association was call'd the Treaty of Utrecht, because made and ratify'd in that City. Where the Governours of the Provinces and the States, to shew that a strict Union was necessary for their preservation, assum'd for their Devise, the words of Micipsa in Salust, Concordia par-

væ res crescunt.

Not long after, the Prince of Orange, perceiving the strength of the States-General daily to decay, by reason they were deserted by some of the Provinces, and several of their own Body, who had made their Peace with the King of Spain, through the active perswasions of the Duke of Parma, laid their condition before them; which he shew'd them to be fuch, that they could never be able to subsist against so potent an Adversary, by reason of their want of Power, so that either they must be forc'd to reconcile themselves with Spain, which he could never advise them to do; fince there was no fecurity in fuch an Accommodation, either for their Lives or their Religion; or else to make choice of some Neighbouring Prince to be their Lord, and Protector; for which purpose, he could think of none more proper, then the Duke of Anjon and Alengon, the only Brother of Henry, the Third, King of France.

This Proposal being approv'd, Philip Mar-

nix, and certain other Commissioners, were sent into France, where in a short time they Treaty with the Duke of concluded a Alengon, wherein it was agreed, That the States of Holland, Zealand, Brabant, Flanders. Utrecht and Friesland should acknowledge him for their Soveraign. Upon condition that he should make no Alteration in Matters of Religion, and preserve the Priviledges of the Provinces. That he should assemble the States-General once a year, tho' if they thought it convenient to meet oftner, they might do it of themselves. That he should not dispose of any Imployments or Preferments in the Government, without the Consent of the States; and that if he should go about to violate the Priviledges of the Provinces, or any thing contain'd in the present Treaty, he should forfeit his Soveraignty, and that they should be at Liberty, being absolv'd from their Oaths to Him, to chuse another Soveraign.

Thereupon the Arch-Duke, perceiving there was no more need of him in the Netherlands, in regard they fought a more Powerful Protection then he could afford them, took his leave, and retir'd into Germany, tho' not with out large acknowledgments from the States of his Favours, and several Presents as magnificent as their Condition at that time would

afford.

In the mean time the Prince of Orange us'd the utmost of his diligence to hasten the March of the Duke of Alengon; well knowing how much it concern'd him, at such a Conjuncture,

D 4

to be supported by the presence of so considerable a Prince. More especially in regard that the same year, 1580. the King of Spain had publish'd a most bloody Proscription against him; wherein after he had upbraided him, with the Favours which the Emperour Charles the fifth had heap'd upon him, he reproach'd him with the most opprobrious Names of Ingrateful Rebel, Disturber of the Publick Peace, Heretick, and Hypocrite: Call'd him Cain, Judas, a Man of a sear'd Conscience, Impious, and Sacrilegious, Perjur'd, Author of all the Troubles in the Low-Countries, and the Pest of Humane Kind. After that the King declar'd him Out-law'd, and gave his Estate, his Body and Life to any Person that could make himself Master of either. Promising upon the word of a King, and a Servant of God, a Reward of five and twenty thousand Crowns to him that could bring him dead or alive into Spain; together with impunity for all the Crimes that ever they committed; and if they were not already Noble, to confer Nobility upon them and their Heirs.

In answer to which, the Prince made a long Apology, wherein he gave a particular Reply to every particular Paragraph of the Profeription. Which when he had finish'd, he caus'd it to be read in a full Assembly of the States-General. And indeed the Prince of Orange seem'd to be desirous that the States would have caus'd it to have been printed in their own Names. But some of the Provinces deem'd it not so proper, in regard it seem'd to be

too severe and picquant, and for that they were no way privy to feveral Miscarriages therein imputed to the King. However they declar'd by a publick Act, that the Prince was wrongfully accus'd, and that it was only upon their most earnest Importunity, that he had accepted of the Government, and offer'd him a Troop of Horse, at the Publick Charge for the Guard of his Person; beseeching him to persevere in the maintenance of their Liberty, and promising all Obedience and Submission to his Commands and Counsels, which they acknowledg'd to have no other aim, but

their fafety and preservation.

But if the Prince had reason to be troubl'd at this dreadful Proscription, he had no less Reason to be afflicted for the surprize of Breda; which together with the Territory round about it, was no small part of his Paternal Inheritance; a particular loss to himself, and a Damage no less considerable to the Publick. Nevertheless it was no small alleviation of his Grief, to hear that the Duke of Alençon was upon his March with fourteen thousand Horse and Foot to the relief of Cambray, then besieg'd by the Duke of Parma, who upon the News, was forc'd to raise his Siege. Besides that he saw himself in some measure reveng'd upon the Proscription it self. For upon Intelligence of the Duke of Anjou's Advancement, the States declar'd the Soveraignty of the King of Spain over the Low-Countries to be forfeited, broke his Seals, and decree'd that he should be no longer acknowledg'd for their Prince. Nor were they

at all daunted at the taking of Tournay at the same time, which the Duke of Parma wrested from the vigorous Desence of Madam Maria de la Lin, Princess of Espinoy, and Sister to the Baron of Montigny; a Lady that with a Masculine Valour, for the encouragement of others, expos'd her self during the Siege to so much danger, that she was shot in the

Arm with a Musquet Bullet.

After this, the sharp Season causing a kind of Cessation of Arms, the Duke of Alengon made a step into England; from whence, after fplendid Entertainments, and a confiderable Sum of Money for his Low-Country Voyage, he fet Sail in the depth of Winter, and Landed at Flushing, and thence walk'd a foot to Middleborough, where he was met by the Prince of Orange and the Prince of Espinoy, by whom he was conducted to Antwerp, where he was receiv'd with all imaginable Pomp and Magnificence; and where, being by the Prince of Orange himself invested with the Ducal Bonnee and Mantle of Crimson Velvet, lin'd with Ermins, he took his Oath, in presence of the States, and Magistrates of the City, and an infinite Multitude of people that throng'd to fee a fight fo extraordinary, regularly to observe the Treaty concluded with him, and the Priviledges of the Country, and not to Govern after his own will and pleasure, but according to Equity and Justice: Which done, the States and Magistracy of Antwerp gave him their Oaths of Fidelity and Obedience, as their Soveraign Prince.

But all this publick splendour of Joy and Triumph,

Triumph, was foon overcast with Clouds of Grief and Lamentation, by reason of an unfortunate Accident that befell the Prince of Orange. For the Proscription having promis'd so large a Reward, Money, the Poyson of the Soul, had already infected the minds of several Hungry Villains, and set them at work to merit the Price of Princely Blood. The first of these was one Favregny a Bescayner, who, watching his Opportunity, with a Pistol laden with a single Buller, shot the Prince under the Right Ear, so that the Bullet went out at his left Cheek, and brake some of his Teeth, as it pass'd through his Mouth. first the French were thought to have committed the Fact; but the Assassine being kill'd by the Halbardeers of the Prince's Guard, and certain Papers found in his Pocket, by which he plainly appear'd to be a Spaniard, the People that had taken Arms to revenge the Fact upon the French, were appeas'd, and retir'd well satisfy'd to their Houses. Prince of Orange also, notwithstanding the extremity of his Pain, wrote with his own hand to the Magistrates of Antwerp, to let them know the Assassinate was set on by the Spaniards.

It is not to be express'd how extraordinary, and how universal, the Grief and Lamentation of that great City was, upon the Princes being wounded. The Magistrates commanded publick Fasts: The People would not stir from the Churches, but with continual Supplications implored his cure. And when the danger was over, with no less Zeal they

they employ'd their Devotions in returning thanks to God, for the Recovery of the Fa-

ther of their Country.

So foon as the Prince was in a Condition to stir abroad, the Duke of Anjou took him along to Gaunt and Bruges, where was difcover'd another Conspiracy against the Per-fons of both. The Chief in this Conspiracy was one Nicholas Salcede a Spaniard, who confest he had received four thousand Crowns from the Duke of Parma, to murder the Duke of Anjou and the Prince of Orange, by Poyson or any other way. And Francis Baza an Italian, one of his Accomplices, being apprehended, confessed the same thing; but before he was carry'd to Execution, kill'd himself, to avoid the Tortures prepar'd for his punishment. Salcede was carri'd to Paris, and there drawn with four Horses upon the Greve.

But now the Duke of Anjou in imitation of Youthful Roboam, who lost himself by following the Dictates of his young Advisers, misguided by Tervagues, St. Aignan, Rochepot, and feveral other raw heads that over-rul'd him, and neglecting to confult the Prince of Orange, the Duke of Montpensier, the Count de Laval, and others that were able to have given him better instructions, contrary to his Oath, and in defiance of all the Laws of Justice, took a Resolution to seize upon the principal places of the Netherlands, as Dunkirk, Dendermond, Bruges and Antwerp it felf, all in one day; not enduring the High Authority of the Prince of Orange, nor to be a Soveraign only in name, with

with a power so strictly limited; pretending for his justification, that the People of Antwerp had surrounded his Palace to kill him; and that by such a revolt they had discharg'd him of his Oath. To this purpose, he seiz'd upon Dendermond, Dunkirk, and other places, but sail'd of Bruges and Antwerp, where the Citizens behav'd themselves with that resolution, that the French within were slain in such heaps before the Gates, that they without could not enter to their relief.

Thereupon the Duke of Anjou restor'd those places of which he had made himself Master, and returning into France, dy'd at his Castle of Chasteau-Thierry for very vexation and

anguish of mind.

The Flemmings were of opinion, that the Prince of Orange had corresponded with the French for the surprize of Antwerp, and his Enemies made use of that false suggestion to lessen his reputation, which was somewhat impaired by his fourth Marriage with Louise de Coligny. The Prince therefore perceiving that the States Party grew weaker and weaker every day in the Walloon Provinces, retir'd into Holland, where he thought himself more secure, and less expos'd to the attempts of superstition, and the Proscription Rewards against his Perfon, and made choice of the City of Delph for the place of his Residence, where his Princess bare him his last Son, nam'd Henry Frederic, Grandfather to his present Highness.

Having thus to his immortal Honour, by fo many Glorious Acts of Prudence and Refolution,

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solution, enfranchis'd so great a part of his Country from Thraldom to the Spanish cruelty; it was no wonder that the People so univerfally lamented his being affaffinated in the one and fiftieth year of his Age. For then it was. that Balthasar Guerard, born at Villefans, in the County of Burgundy, either spurr'd on by the Proscription Encouragements, or out of a vain hope of gaining Heaven, by ridding the World of an Enemy to the King and the Catholic Religion, took his opportunity as he was rising from Dinner, at his Palace in Delf, to discharge a Pistol into his Body, laden with three Bullets; of which wounds he fell down dead immediately, without having time to utter any more then only these words, in the presence of his afflicted Lady, and his Sister the Countess Schwartsbourg, Lord have mercy on my Soul, and this poor People.

The Murderer had infinuated himself into the knowledge of the Prince, under the name of Francis Guyon, the Son of Peter Guyon of of Beganson, who had suffer'd for his Religion. He was never without the Hugonot Pfalms, and the new Testament in his hands, and would still be fure to be in view of the Prince at all the Sermons that were preach'd before him. By which means he had so wrought himself into the Prince's favour, that he entrusted him with several Dispatches to several places whither he had occasion to send. And and at the very time when he committed the Assassination, he was attending for a Pass from the Prince to some Province whither he had design'd

design'd him. He was not above two and twenty years of age, and yet his resolution in the midst of the tortures of his punishment, was no less then his daring boldness to undertake the Crime.

Thus fell the Illustrious William of Nassan, Prince of Orange; a Person, in whom concurr'd a solid Judgment, to undertake so great and difficult a Work; a Courage unparallel'd to carry it on, and a Constancy almost incredible to bring it to pass: maugre all the formidable Puissance of Spain, and the intestine Treacheries of those that in Crowds oppos'd his generous designs. Therefore it was that both the States and People, who had so often in their most dire extremities experienc'd his Prudence, his Constancy, his Magnanimity, Equity, Patience, and Moderation; Vertues, that perhaps so many together never met in any one fingle Mortal, bewail'd his death, as the greatest loss that ever could have befal'n them in this World; and to the end they might testify the reality of their grief, nothing was thought too Great or Royal to folemnise the Pomp of his Funeral.

He was a Person of a goodly Stature; swarthy of Complexion, his hair enclining to a Chesnut colour, he spoke but little, thought much; but what he utter'd, was all to the purpose, and pass'd for Oracular. No man in all the Low-Countries more hospitaple, or that kept a more splendid Table, even in the time of Charles the First: his House being always open for the entertainment of all Foreign Princes and Embassadors. Which

furpassing

furpalling generolity of his, together with a peculiar art that he had of winning upon the affections of men, gain'd him an universal Friendship and esteem. Not that he stoop'd to the low forms of Complement, and common professions of Courtship, wherewith now a-days Men honourably mock one another; but shewing himself neither sparing nor prodigat of his Courtship, so discreetly expended his words, that men of judgment well might think he reserv'd more for action. Among the common People so affable and familiar, that he feldom put on his hat in the Streets, where multitudes of all Ages and Sexes would be always crowding to see him. More particularly it is reported of him, that as he was passing along a-foot in one of the Cities of Holland, hearing a noise in an ordinary Tradesman's house, and understanding that the Man and his Wife were at variance, he entered, and having patiently heard the Cause of the dispute, exhorted them to be friends, with an affability beyond compare. Upon which, both Parties being reconciled, the Man of the House ask'd him if he would taste of his Beer; to which the Prince answer'd, Yes. The drink being come, the Man drank to the Prince first, in a blew Jugg, and then filling it again, after he had wip'd off the froth with the palm of his hand, presented the Jugg to the Prince, who pledg'd him heartily, and so went his way. And indeed it was his usual saying, when his Friends tax'd him of being too familiar, That there could be nothing cheaper bought then the good word of the People, which cost him only

only the putting off his Hat, or a little frankness

of behaviour.

He had four Wives; of which the first was Ann d'Egmont, the Daughter of Maximilian d'Egmont Count of Buren and Leerdam, a wealthy Heires, whom he espous'd by the favour of Charles the Fifth. By her he had Philip William Prince of Orange, and a Daughter nam'd Marrie de Nassau, Marry'd afterwards to Philip Count de Hohenlo, who as er the unexpected assassination of the Prince, when all the Confederate Provinces were under a strange consternation, generously withstood the efforts of the Spaniards, and reviv'd the drooping spirits of the Hollanders.

His second Wife was Ann of Saxony, the Daughter of Maurice the samous Elector of Saxony, who made head against Charles the Fifth. By her, he had the Renowned Count Maurice, of whom we shall have sufficient occasion to speak; and a Daughter nam'd Emilia of Nassau, Marry'd to Emanuel, Son of Anthony King of Portugal.

His third Wife was Charlotta de Bourbon, of the House of Montpensier; by whom he had

fix Daughters.

1. Juliana de Nassau Marry'd to Frederic the Fourth, Elector Palatin, Father of Frederic the first elected King of Bohemia.

2. Elizabeth de Nassau, Marry'd to Henry de la Tour, Duke of Bouillon, so much renown'd in the Wars of Henry the Fourth.

3. Catherina Belgica, Marry'd to Philip Lewis,

Count of Hanaw.

4. Charlotta Brabantina, the Wife of Clau-E dius, dius, Duke of Tremouille and Thouars, and Count de Laval.

5. Charlotta Flandrina de Nassau, who, turning Roman Catholic, dy'd Abbess of Sainte Croix in Poitiers.

6. Emilia de Nassau, Marry'd to Frederic Casimir, a Branch of the House of Deux Ponts,

call'd Dake of Lansberg.

His Fourth and last Wife, was Loisa de Colligny, the Relict of Monsieur de Teligny, and Daughter to the Great Admiral Chastillon; by whom he had that Renowned Captain Henry Frederic Prince of Orange; of whom more in due place.

PHILLIP

PHILIP WILLIAM

OF NASSAU

Prince of Orange.

HIS PRINCE was the Godson of King Philip the Second; and when Prince William his Father was compell'd to take up Arms in his own defence, he was a Student at Lovain; where, among other priviledges which that University enjoys, it is not lawful to apprehend, or arrest any person for any Crime what ever it be. Nevertheless, John Vargas, a Spaniard, attended by a party of Souldiers of the same Nation, took him by force out of a Sanctuary sacred, notwithstanding all the Protestations of the Rector of the University to the contrary.

The Prince of Orange his Father also made loud complaints of this breach, and violation of Priviledges, in publick Writings; wherein he set forth the cruelty of the Spaniards, whose Tyranny was so exhorbitant, that no Laws, or Immunities, nor innocency of Age were able to rescue any person whatever from

their injustice.

This Young Prince was carry'd into Spain at thirteen Years of Age, and immur'd in a Castle in the Country, where he was debarr'd

where he spent the greatest part of his Life, in playing at Chests with his Keeper; till after thirty Years Imprisonment, he was allow'd

a little more Liberty.

He was a Prince of Excellent Natural Parts, and being carry'd Young into Spain, retain'd the Roman Catholick Religion. Which was the Reason, that the Spaniards to justifie their illegal Detention of his Person, alledg'd that it was done to preserve him from the Venome of Heresse.

During his Imprisonment, the Captain that guarded him, presuming to talk scurrilously of Prince William his Father, the Generous Son, not able to brook the Arrogance of his Jaylour, took him about the middle, threw him out at the Window, and broke his Neck. Various were the Opinions of King Philip's Council, what was to be done in a case so extraordinary; but at length Indulgence and Mildness prevail'd. The rather. for that Gabriel Osorio, a Young Gentleman, who was present at the Fact committed, gave a Relation in favour of the Prince, and told the Council that the Captain had fail'd in his respect to a Person of his Quality; and therefore that his Death was but an Attonement due to his just Resentment. Which was an Obligation luckily lay'd upon a Grateful Prince: for after that, he alwaies preferr'd Oforio near his Person, and did him several remarkable kindnesses.

At length King Philip, either compassicnating his tedious Captivity, or weary of punishing Transgressions of his Father; or rather hoping that his Liberty would create jealousse and discord between the Brothers of Orange (as the escape of Monsseur de Guise had done, among the Heads of the League) resolv'd at last to release him.

But then Prince Maurice made it appear, how much his Soul was elevated above the Temptations of Interest. For he surrender'd to his Brother the Enjoyment of all his Demeans, of which he was then in Possession; as of Breda and of other places; tho' for fear of rendring himself suspected to the States, he forbore to visit him in Person, and only tender'd him his Respects from time to time

by Persons deputed.

Prince Philip came into Flanders with Arch-Duke Albert, who in a short while after fent him back into Spain to attend upon, and conduct into the Netherlands his Bride and Spouse that was to be, the Infanta Isabella, to whom King Philip had given in Dowry, the Soveraignty of the Seventeen All Europe stood amaz'd, that Provinces. the Son of a Person so odious to Spain should be made choice of for an Employment so highly Honourable, which could not be conferr'd upon him without an extraordinary testimony of Esteem and Considence. After that, he liv'd at the Court of Bruffels with the Arch-Dukes of Flanders. For the States of the United Provinces, had conceiv'd distrust of him by Reason of that Employment, and for that the King of Spain E 3 had

had restor'd him to all his Demeans in the Spanish Low-Countries and in Franche Conté, that they would not permit him so much as to Visit, much less reside in their Provinces; tho' he earnestly labour'd and defir'd it.

He Marry'd the Sister of the Prince of Conde, Eleonora de Bourbon, a Lady of great Vertue, but had no Children by her. However by vertue of this Match with a First Princess of the Blood, he was restor'd to the Possession of his Principality and Castle of Orange.

He dy'd of the Hamorrhoids at Brussels, in the Year 1618. leaving Count Maurice the succeeding Heir as well to his Title as

to his Territories.

MAURICE

MAURICE

OF NASSAU

Prince of Orange.

THIS GREAT CAPTAIN became a real Exception to the Proverb, which tells us, That the Sons of Hero's are usually Persons of little worth. For tho' he were the Son of a most Excellent Father, that has left behind him an Immortal Honour, he not only equal'd him in Prudence and largeness of Soul, but surpass'd him in Military Knowledge, and Fortunate Atchievements. If the Father for twenty years together were the Chief Discourse of Europe; the Son for above thirty Years together, made a greater noise in the World, than all the Crowned Heads of Europe together. For from the Year 1584 that he began to Act, till the Year 1625. that he dy'd, all men spoke with wonder and Astonishment of Prince Maurice, as one that was without controul, allow'd to be one of the greatest Captains ever known in History. While he was yet but very Young, that the World might know the eager defire which he had, to trace the Glorious Footsteps of his Father, he assum'd for his Device, the Trunk of a Tree faw'd off two foot above the Root; from whence fprung up a fingle Scion, Lively and FlouFlourishing, and as it were hastening to grow up into another Tree, with this Motto, Tan-

dem fit surculus Arbor.

And indeed Prince MAURICE was furnish'd with a large stock of Courage and Constancy at the Age of Seventeen Years, at what time he was call'd to the Government of Affairs, upon the Death of his Father. For he was no way cast down, to behold the Torrent of Alexander Farnese's Prosperity, who carry'd all before him, by the rapid Conquests of Bruges, Gaunt, Dendermond, Deventer, Nimenghen, Graves, and Antwerp it self, after a Siege that was then lookt upon to be the wonder of the Age, by stopping up the Mouth of the Scheldt, and bridling in the Sea with a Damm, which all thought to have been impossible. Nor was he any more daunted at the ftrange Confusions and Disorders which then overwhelm'd the Commonwealth, through the Haughty Conduct of the Earl of Leister, whose insupportable Pride and inordinate Ambition, did the Low-Countries more prejudice, than all the Summs of Money and Forces which he brought to their Succour, did them good.

For four Years together, the Republick labour'd under dreadful Extremities, and no man could believe that so young a Prince could ever unravel such a twisted Spindle of Disorder and Consusion, or cure so many pernicious Palsies in the State, begot by the practices of Spain, or the Treachery of the Earl of Leicestar's Creatures. But as all worldly Affairs never observe the same Station, but are alwaies rowling in a perpetual Vicissitude,

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the same Good Fortune that had favour'd for so long time the Duke of Parma's Enterprises, of a sudden turn'd to Prince Maurice's side. For after the total destruction of that Invincible Armado, design'd to devour all England and the Low Countries at once, follow'd the entire loss of the Duke of Parma's Reputation, while Prince Maurice forc'd him to rise from the Siege of Berghen up zom, to his Eternal Ignominy.

After which good Fortune, for the space of twenty Years until the Truce, the Prince was still attended with Victory, recovering within that time, no less than eight and thirty or forty Cities; and many more Fortresses, and deseating the Spaniards in open Field in three remarkable pitch'd Battels; not to mention his Victories at Sea, gain'd by his Vice-Admirals and Lieutenants upon the Coasts of Flanders

and Spain.

But nothing won him more Reputation than the surprize of Breda, by means of a Boat laden with Turfs; without any Effusion of Blood; there being but one single Souldier lost in an Action of that Importance and Hazard. For the Garrison being compos'd of Italians, and eager for Fuel in that cold Climate, readily assisted the Boat-man to draw his Bark of Turfs, under which lay the Prince's Armed Souldiers, over the Ice within the circuit of the Castle; as formerly the Trojans drew in the Wooden Horse within the Walls of their City. Which was the reason that the Wits of that time, compar'd the surprize of Breda to the taking of Troy.

Nor

Nor did another Stratagem of the Prince, at the same time, a little conduce to facilitate the Boatman's Enterprise. For while the Armed Bark was sayling for Breda, the Prince made as if he had a Design upon Gertrudenburgh, which caus'd Lanzavecchia, who was Governour of both Towns, to sly to the place which was threaten'd, by which means the Castle of Breda was left without a Governour, and the more easily expos'd to the surprize that ensu'd.

The furprize of Breda was attended by the taking of Hulft in Flanders. But much more considerable was the surrender of Gertrudenburgh after a long and painful Siege, in view of the Spanish Army of thirty thousand men, Commanded by Count Mansfield, an old Experienc'd Captain, in the absence of the Duke of Parma. For neither could that cunning General force the Young Prince in his Entrenchments, nor draw him forth by any Artifice, tho' he presented him Battel every day. Infomuch that Prince Maurice having fent a Trumpetter to-Count Mansfield, the General ask'd him, how it was possible his Master, being a Young and Fiery Prince, could contain him-felf within his Trenches, when so fairly pro-vok'd? To whom the Trumpetter reply'd, That the Prince of Nassau was indeed a Young Prince, but as old an experienc'd Captain as his Excellency.

The Year following he took the Great and Famous City of Groning the Capitol of the Province. He also took and retook Rhinebergh, and made himself Master of Moeurs and Graves.

But

59

But that which extended his Reputation farther then all this, was the long and Famous Defence of Oftend; where the Spaniards, after the loss of threescore thousand Men, during a Siege of above three years, and the exhausting their Treasures, by an Expence of above a hundred Millions, made themselves Masters at length of no more then a heap of Rubbish, that look'd more like a Church-Yard then a City.

However the Prince was so fortunate and vigilant both together; that to repay this loss with use, he made himself Master in a few days of Sluis in the same Country of Flanders, of much more Importance then Ostend, that had cost such a waste of Time, Money, and

Men.

But at the Battel of Newport, where he utterly defeated the Arch-Duke Albert, he made it appear to all the world, that he knew to vanquish Veteran Armies more numerous then his own in open Field, as well as to defend, furprize, and take by force the strongest Fortresses of Europe. The Arch-Duke, and the Duke of Aumale, were both wounded in the Fight, Francis Mendoza Admiral of Arragon taken Prisoner, with a great number of Commanders, even to the Pages of the Arch-Duke, whom the Prince as Nobly and Generoully fent back to their Master without Ransom. All the Enemies Canon and Baggage, with above a hundred Cornets and Enfigns, fell into the Victor's Hands, after the Slaughter of fix thousand of the Spamards upon the place. Nor could the defeat of four Regiments of Foot, and four Troops

of Horse under the Command of Count Ernestus, before the fight began, at all discourage him from giving the Enemies Battel; but resolv'd to dye or vanquish, he sent away all the Ships that had transported his Men into Flanders, telling his Souldiers withal, that being depriv'd of all their hopes of safety by slight, they must either make their way over the Bellies of their Enemies, or drink salt Water.

Not that this was the first time that he had appear'd in open Field: For the Spaniards had before this, experienc'd his Valour, first when he forc'd the Duke of Parma to raise his Siege from before Knottenburgh, with the loss of seven Troops of his best Horse. And in the next place when he defeated a Body of fix thousand Foot, and six hundred Horse, commanded by the Baron of Balancon, where besides the General himself, were slain two thoufand of the Enemy, eight and thirty Enfigns taken, and a great number of Prisonors of Oua-To which we may add that after the lity. Truce was expir'd, and that the Marquess Spinola was sate down before Bergopsim with all the Force of the Spanish Netherlands, he compell'd him to raise his Siege, to the infinite joy of the United Netherlands.

Prince Maurice was very strong, and in labour indefatigable. He appear'd less then he was, by reason he was very fat and plump. His Cheeks were full and ruddy, his Beard white, which he always wore large and square. He never chang'd his Fashion of little set Ruffs; and for his Habit, it was always the same both for Stuff and Colour, which was like the Colour of Musk.

Musk. His Doublets were of Silk, trimm'd with a narrow Gold Lace; but the rest of his Cloaths were of Wollen, only that his Cloaks and Coats were lin'd with Velvet. Round his Hat he frequently wore a Band of Diamonds; nor did he ever go without a Girdle, to which was fasten'd a Pendant, wherein hung his Sword, the Hilt of which was guilded.

His chiefest Recreation was Ches: a Game wherein he much delighted, and which he frequently us'd, especially during the Truce, when he had a Cessation from Warlike

thoughts.

He laught at the French for going in their slasht Doublets and half Shirts; especially in such a cold Climate as Holland. Upon which, when a French Man told him he had two shirts on, and that there was nothing so warm as two shirts; the Prince reply'd, that three were warmer than two, and bid him go and put on another, for fear he caught an Ague.

He was wont to compare the four Principal Nations of Europe to four forts of Infects. For he said the French were like Fleas, that were always skipping about, and could never stand still in a place. That the Spaniards were the Crab-lice, that never quitted their Hold. That the Italians were like Bedpunies, that never stay'd long in a place but they lest some stench of Sodomie, Murder or Treachery behind them. And that the Germans were like Lice, that suffer'd themselves to be crackt upon a Table. He was a great lover of Methematicians and Engineers, tho' there was not any person that could instruct

the Prince in that Art, above what he knew himself; having himself invented several useful Engines, of great use both in sieges of

Towns, and for the palling of Rivers.

He would not suffer his Horsemen to wear strait Boots, which he affirm'd to be the occasion of the ill success of many great Enterprizes, there being frequent necessities for the Horse to mount in an instant; and therefore he always wore Boots himself, that a Man might almost leap into.

He could by no means approve the Italian Riders, that taught their Horses to rise and curvet, which he affirm'd to be pernicious, and to have bin frequently the Ruin of their Riders. And therefore order'd his own Riders to teach his Horses onely to turn to the Right

and Left.

He had so much ease in his Mind, that he had no sooner laid his Head upon his Pillow, but he was fast asleep; and slept so soundly, that it was a hard matter to wake him, which was the reason that in time of War, he had always Men that sate up in the next Room, two at a time, and reliev'd every Hour, who had Orders to wake him in case of Necessity.

He dy'd in the Spring of the Year 1625. At what time the Marquis Spinola lay before Breda. And therefore some impute his Death to his vexation and trouble of Mind, that he could not relieve his own Town, that he had so happily surprized above four and thirty years before. He was never marry'd, and therefore left his Title, and large Possessions, to his Younger Brother.

HENRY

HENRY FREDERIC

of NASSAU,

Prince of Orange.

HENRY FREDERIC, Prince of Orange, born the 28. of February 1584. was one of the most Renowned Captains of his Time, and every way Equal in Fame, and Military Atchievements to his Brother Maurice.

Being settl'd in his Government, he took Oldensel the Capital City of Tuente, and after that Groll, in despite of Count Henry de Bergues, General of a numerous Army of Spaniards, who could neither relieve the Town, nor force the Prince to raise his siege.

Nor was his Vice-Admiral Hein less victorious at Sea, where he took a Fleet of the Spaniards near the Island of Cuba, valu'd at a-

bove twenty Millions.

But that which made him yet more confiderable, was his taking of Bois le Duc, after a long and difficult siege; which however shew'd that he was able to master a place that had withstood all the Efforts of his Brother, Prince Maurice, who had several times in vain attacqu'd it. And that which was more to be admir'd is this, that while he was busily imploy'd in that Laborious Siege, Count Henry of Bergues, having pass'd the Issell with a numerous Army, ravag'd all the Country of Utrecht,

Utrecht, where he made himself Master of Amersfort, and struck such a terror into Holland, that several advis'd him to quit Boisleduc. and march to the rescue of the Heart of his wasted Country; yet such was his Resolution to get so considerable a Town into his Hands. that he would not stir till he had it. Nor. did he then follow the Count of Bergnes, but turning his thoughts upon the City of Wellel, where lay the Magazine and all the Great Artillery of the Spanish Army, by the happy furprize of that place, constrain'd the Count to repass the Wessel in far greater haste, than he crost it before. And by that means, having obtain'd a double Conquest, won the Reputation not only of a Brave, but a Fortunate Captain. An Addition so desirable in a General, that Sylla the Dictator prefer'd the Sirname of Fortunate, before that of Great.

Not long after Count John of Nassau, his Kinsman, upon som distast revolting to the Spaniard, was defeated in open Field near the Rhine, by Cott. Iselsteine with half his number, and carry'd Pris'ner to Wessel, from whence he redeem'd himself upon the Payment of eigh-

teen Thousand Rixdollers.

In revenge of which disgrace, having rigg'd out to Sea a powerful Fleet, in hopes to surprize Willemstadt in Prince-Land, he was utterly defeated by the Hollanders, with the loss of four thousand Men taken Pris'ners, and the rest of his Men either slain, or more miserably drown'd; Himself hardly escaping with the Prince of Brabançon.

And then it was that the States General,

to gratifie the Prince of Orange, and to testifie their acknowledgement of the great services which he had done them, conferr'd the Survivancy of all his Dignities and Employments upon his Son Prince William; for which Concession, the publick Instruments, being ready drawn up, were presented to the young Prince in a Box of Gold.

Nor was Prince Henry Frederic ungrateful for their kindness; for after he had taken Ruremond, Venlo, and Strall, he undertook the Siege of Maestricht; to which purpose he so well proportion'd his Provision and Amunition, which he provided for the Siege, that he had just sufficient to serve him, till he had taken the Town. Where he surrounded his Trenches with so strong a Circumvallation, that neither the Spanish Army, not that of the Germans under Count Pappenheim, a samous Captain, could force him to raise his Siege; but were compell'd to retreat with dishonour, after many Attempts in vain, and several considerable losses.

Many other Atchievements of lesser Importance I might recite, as his taking of Reinebergh, a little Fort, for its situation so much contested for on both sides, that Spinola call'd it the Harlot of War; and his revenge upon Cardinal Richlieu for endeavouring to deprive him of his Principality of Orange, while he lest the French deservedly in the lurch, after their Victory at Aveine, to be vanquish'd by want of Provisions and Hunger; and his retaking the Fort of Skink, the Key of Guelderland and Utrecht, after it had been surprized by the Spaniard;

Spaniard. But that which was more considerable then all these, was his regaining, after a siege of not above four Months, the City and Castle of Breda, which Marquis Spinola had beleaguer'd at vast expences, a whole year together, before he could master it; as if the Enemy did but only take upon them still, a Laborious and Tedious Toyl, to advance his same with so much the more

fpeed and glory.

No less victorious at Sea was his Vice-Admiral Erpez. Trump, who fetting upon a numerous Fleet of the Spaniards, consisting of fixty seven Men of War, reinforc'd with several Vessels from Dunkirk, formidable in those times, drave them first to take shelter in the Downs; and after that, being reinforc'd with feveral Men of War, and Fire-Ships, from Holland, Zeland, and Friesland, attacqu'd them a second time with so much Resolution, that after a smart engagement, he destroy'd the greatest part, to the number of forty Men of War fir'd and funk; wherein were lost above seven thousand Men, and two thousand Prisoners carri'd into Holland: among the rest of which was the Great Gallion of Portugal, call'd Mater Terefa, that carry'd eight hunder'd Men, of whom not one escap'd.

In the Year 1641. Prince Henry Frederic of Orange, marry'd his only Son Prince William to the Princess Mary of England, Eldest Daughter to Charles the first, King of Great Brittain, and of Madam Henrietta of France. And, not long after, as an Addition to his Glory, he won the strong Hold of Hulst in Flanders, which he wrested from the Spaniards, unable either

to relieve the Place, or force the Prince to

raise his siege.

Thus William Prince of Orange laid the Foundations of the Republick of the United Provinces. His eldest Son, Maurice, fix'd and and establish'd those Foundations by his Victories; and Henry Frederic, the younger Brother, by the Continuation of his Conquests, and enlarging their Territories, at length forc'd the Spaniards to renounce the pretended Claim to their Territories thus Enfranchiz'd by his Sword. So that the Illustrious Father, and his two Renowned Sons, may be justly and deservedly be said to be the Founders of a Potent Republic, that Sends her Embassadours upon equal Terms, to the most Puissant Kings of Christendom, even to the King of Spain himself, whose Subjects they were, not above a hundred Years before.

Prince Henry Frederic, Prince of Orange, as to his Person, was tall of Stature, his Presence comly, and very strong of his Limbs; to which he had joyn'd a quick and piercing

Wit, and a secure Judgment.

By the Advice of Prince Maurice, when he drew toward his end, he marry'd Madamoi-felle Emilia de Solms, the Daughter of John Albert, Count of Solms, who came with the Queen of Bohemia into Holland. A Lady of surpassing Beauty and Graceful Behaviour, accompany'd with no less Modesty and Prudence.

By her he had one Son and four Daughters, of which the Eldest, nam'd Louisa, was marry'd to Frederic William Elector of Brandenbourgh,

by whom he had several Children.

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The second Henrietta Emilia, was marry'd to the Count of Nassau.

The third, Henrietta Katherina, espous'd

John George, Prince of Anhalt.

The fourth was marry'd to the Duke of Simeren.

He dy'd the twelfth of March, 1647. leaving behind him his Son

WILLIAM

of NASSAU,

Prince of Orange.

Was born in the year, 1626. A Prince of early Hopes and surpassing Courage, but snatcht away by sudden Death, in the four and twentieth year of his Age, after he had been nine years married to the Princess Mary, Daughter to Charles the First, King of Great Britain, by whom he had PRINCEWILLIAM HENRY, who was born the fourteenth of November, 1650. some sew days after the Death of his Father, and had for his God-Fathers the Lords States-General of Holland, and Zeland, and of the Cities of Delf, Leyden and Amsterdam.

WILLIAM

WILLIAM HENRY

The Friedrich

OF NASSAU,

Prince of Orange.

PRINCE in all Noble and Vertuous Qualities equal to the rest of his Ancestors; Born, as they to be the Founders and Establishers, so he to be the RE-STORER of the afflicted and half ruin'd Batavian REPUBLICK; who in his tender Infancy display'd a reserv'dness and moderation far above his Age. And his prudence increasing with his years, all the experienc'd Judges of worth and merit, that observ'd his Actions, affirm'd, that never any Prince was more admir'd, for those early appearances of a furpassing bravery, that fix'd their hopes and expectations in his Youth. He fuffer'd with a forbearance beyond parallel, the Affronts and Injuries offer'd him by Barnevel's Party, reviv'd in the persons of the Dewits; expecting with a patience (beyond that of his Great Grandfather Prince William,) a proper season, and favourable opportunity for his Restoration to all the high Dignities and Employments enjoy'd of right by his Family; of which he had been depriv'd, by the publick decree of a prevailing Faction, presently after the death of his Father.

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Nor

Nor will it be deny'd, but that France was in some measure contributary to his Exaltation, tho' not intendedly, nor in favour to the Prince; only his destiny permitted that vainglorious Monarch to over-run and half demolish a Flourishing Republick, that his Highness might thereby have an opportunity to display to the World the wonders of his prudence and magnanimity, in restoring it to its former Luster; withall, to let the Ingrateful see, that only the Progeny of the Founders could repair

the ruines of what they had rear'd.

For it was a thing hardly to be imagin'd, with what a rapid inundation of War the King of France o're-run the United Provinces of the Low-Countries, forcing the greatest part of the Frontier Towns, and several of the Capital Cities. Among the rest, Utrecht and Zutphen surrender'd upon the very sight of the Enemy; for tho' provided with numerous Garrisons, yet being no other then the Train'd-Bands of the City, under Commanders of little or no experience, they were foon frighted by a veteran and daring Enemy; fo that the King of France found himself, as it were overwhelm'd with happy fuccefs, beyond his hopes, and almost beyond his wishes.

These missortunes, long before presag'd by the more prudent sort, having reduc'd the United Provinces into a dreadful consternation, gave the People an opportunity to complain of the unhappy conduct of the Dewits, who had then the sole power of the Government in their hands; and surnish'd the savou-

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rers of the House of NASSAU with a real pretence, to discover their thoughts, as it were by way of Admonition to the People, that in all probability the Princes of Orange were the only persons capable to support their tottering Estate, and defend them against their Potent Enemies: and that as formerly they had rescu'd them from the Tyranny of Spain, so now, that they alone must be the Persons to protect them from the farther Fury and Impetuosity of France.

At the same time, his Highnesses Grandmother, a Lady of a Masculine courage, who fuffer'd with impatience the eclipse of the House of Orange, which she had beheld in its brightest splendour, was not a little industrious to awaken the Dependants and Favourers of the Nassovian Grandeur, who were very numerous. Nor could it be thought a crime for her to feek the advancement of her Grandchild, by the preservation of his Country, when so many strive to raise themselves, and pamper their Ambition by the ruine of their Native foyl. They, therefore, thus rous'd up, and difdaining tofee themselves contemn'd and slighted, their reputation loft, and all the Employments of the Commonwealth bestow'd upon the Sons of Burgomasters, and seconded by the fury of the People, who dreadfully terrify'd by fo many misfortunes, and to see a victorious Army rommaging the very bowels of their Country, had facrific'd the two Dewitts to the just resentment of the publick Calamities, of which they deem'd them the Authors, as being Enemies to the young Prince; restor'd the Belgic

Belgie Ancile to the Capitol, and return'd him to the possession of all the Dignities of his Ancestors. In this, those happy Husbandmen, of which Virgil speaks, that knew where their good and safety consisted. The sear of some sew to be subjected to their own safety, was before the occasion, and the ruine of so many. From thence sprang up two satal Factions, which to strengthen their particular interests, enseebled the nerves and sinews of

the general security.

To which purpose they committed the greatest Blunder in Politicks imaginable. For after the Peace of Munster, believing then they had nothing more to fear, nor that any thing could make head against their Usurpation, but only the power of the House of Nassau, so potently Ally'd with France, but more especially with England; they disbanded all their Veteran Forces, and experienc'd Captains, that had won fo much Honour to their Country, whom they lookt upon as wholly devoted to the Prince of Orange, and gave the chief Employments in their Armies and Garrisons, to the Sons of Burgomasters, and Deputies of Cities; raw Souldiers, fitter to be taught, then to Command. Which was the reason, that when they were invaded by a cunning and vigorous Enemy, whole Towns, wherein there were no less then five thousand Foot, and eight hundred Horse in Garrison, furrender'd themselves Prisoners, without striking a stroke, upon the very fight of the Enemy.

Thus Faction and Interest, the bane of all Kingdoms

Kingdoms and States, having reduc'd the depopulated Republic even to despair; they were
constrain'd at length, to have recourse to their
last Asylum, the Prince of Orange; and to
place the small remainder of their hopes upon
a Person whom they had before so ungratefully
rejected. Doubly punish'd for their ingratitude, by the deluge of the publick disasters,
and the shame to see themselves constrain'd to
implore the aid of him, whom their impolitick

pride had fo highly disoblig'd.

Nor did he fail their expectations, as by the event of the War appear'd; wherein, General at two and twenty years of age, as his Grandfather had been before him, in the time of Charles the First, he gave to all the World those signal proofs of his Conduct and Courage, that soon entituled him to all the four most Noble Accomplishments, that confummate a supream Commander; Military Knowledge, undaunted Resolution, awful Authority, and prosperous Success. Insomuch, that like the youthful Augustus, no sooner in the Field, but ripe for Action, he not only stopt the Career of an infulting Enemy, but chang'd the Fortune of the War, and forc'd the swelling pride of elder Experience, to submit to his superior Prowess.

Therefore it was, that in beginning of the year 1672. Monsieur de Beverning, John Dewit, and Gaspar Fagel were deputed in the Name of the States to invest his Higness in the ancient Dignities formerly belonging to his Ancestors, of Captain, and Admiral General of the United Provinces. Which, when he had accepted,

he took his Oath in the Assembly of the States, according to the usual Ceremonies, to the infinite joy of the People. And then he betook himself to the Army, which at that time lay not far from Nieukop. Where all that his Highness could do, against the whole power of France, Commanded by the King himself, was to keep his Post; which he did so effectually, that the Enemy, for all their numbers, could gain no advantage on that side; but on the other hand, when they thought to have forc'd the same Post of Nieukop, they were constrain'd to retire with loss, and leave their Spades and Shovels behind them.

But in the Province of Holland, the People understanding the Frontier Towns and Garrisons dropt so fast into the hands of the Victorious Enemy, began to publish their discontents, and mistrust of the Magistracy; and first of all at Dort, brake forth into open mutiny; fending in the heighth of their fury, to the Magistracy one of their Captains, to know whither they were resolv'd to defend the City or no? To which, when they answer'd, They were, the People demanded to fee the Magazines; but then the Keys were not to be found. This put the Multitude into a greater rage; so that now apprehensive of Treachery in the Magistracy, they cry'd out to have the Prince of Orange made Statholder, threatning withal the Massacre of the Magistrates, if they did not come to a speedy Resolution. Upon this, Commissioners were sent to his Highness, befeeching him to hasten to their City, to appease the commotions of the People. To whom, altho

altho' his Highness by many reasons made it appear, how dangerous it would be for him to leave the Army, yet such were their fears, if they return'd without him, that he condescended to their importunity. Being brought into the Town Hall, which was richly hung, and seated in a Chair of State, they desir'd to know his Highnesses pleasure. To which his Highness reply'd, that it was for them to make their Proposals, who had brought him thither. Upon that, they befought him, for the satisfaction of the People, to visit the Fortifications and Magazines of their City, taking no notice of the Statholdership; which his Highness most readily consented to do; and to that purpose, immediately took a tour about the City. upon his return, the People suspecting that the Magistrates had deluded both them, and the Prince, came about his Coach, and boldly demanded, yet with great respect to his own Person, whether the Magistrates had made him Statholder or no? To which, when his Higness modestly return'd for answer, That he was well contented with the Honour which had been already done him; they all unanimously declar'd, they would not lay down their Arms, until they faw that truft confirm'd upon him. that at length the Magistrates, being terrify'd by the menaces of the People, were constrain'd to lead the way for others to accomplish what had only been by halves as yet perform'd. hard a thing it is, for men to be induc'd to quit the mischievous overweenings of Rancour and Disaffection. And so sure a mark it is, of the evil Government of a State or Kingdom, when

when the People must be forc'd to teach the Magistrates what is most for the public good.

Thereupon an instrument was order'd to be drawn, for abolishing the perpetual Edict. Which the Prince refusing to take notice of, unless he might be discharg'd from the Oath which he took, when he accepted of the single charge of Captain General, that was also decreed in his behalf: and an Act immediately drawn up, and read in the publick Hall by the Secretary, wherein the Magistrates declar'd his Highness the Prince of Orange Statholder, Captain, and Admiral General of all their Forces, as well by Sea as Land; and conferr'd upon him the same Power, Dignity, and Anthority, which his Ancestours of Glorious Memory had formerly enjoy'd.

Which done, the whole City was fill'd with an unanimous and universal joy, and the Orange Colours were immediately set up upon all the Towers and Bulwarks of the Garrison.

Only Cornelius Dewitt, an ancient Burgomaster of the Town, returning at the same
time, indispos'd, from the Fleet, and being
desir'd to sign the said Act, made answer, he
would never do it; nor could all the perswasions us'd, nor the threats of the Multitude
ready to break into his House, nor the tears of
his Wife, that was sensible of his danger, prevail upon his obstinacy, till she threaten'd to
shew her self to the People, and protesting
her own and her Children's innocence, to abandon him to the sury of the Multitude.

Nor was it only Dort, but almost all the Cities of Holland and Zeland, where the Burghers, observing

observing the daily ill success of their Magistrates, follow'd their first Example. So that upon a report of the Deputies of the Cities, the States-General of Holland and West-Friesland. with whom those of Zeland likewise concurr'd. not only confirm'd what had been done by those of Dort, but in the Grand Assembly of the States, presented his Highness with the Publick Instruments, which both discharg'd him from his first Oath of Captain General, and invested him in the Stateholder ship at the same time; with all the Rights, Jurisdictions and Priviledges, as his Ancestours had enjoy'd it: accordingly, the same day his Highness took his Seat in the Hall of Audience, with all the usual Ceremonies, that the Dignity of Statholder, and Captain and Admiral General of the United Provinces requir'd; and then return'd to the Army at Bodegrave.

And now, as if the Restoration of his Highness had already reviv'd the Courage of the People, We find a numerous Party of above five thousand of the French twice repuls'd from the Walls of Aerdenburg, and besides their slain, constrain'd to leave five hundred of their Men Prisoners behind them; among whom were several Commanders, and Persons of Quality; through the extraordinary valour of no more then two hundred Burghers, and a hundred Garrison Souldiers. Only that they were assisted by the Women and Children, while the Women fill'd the Bandeleers, and the Children brought Bullets to their Parants

rents.

Nor did the Citizens of Groning, with less Valour,

Valour and good Fortune defend their Walls against the Bishop of Munster; who, after he had lain before it with an Army of between twenty aud thirty thousand men, was forc'd to raise his Siege, with the loss of almost half his Men, and a prodigious expence of Warlike Ammunition, and instruments of destruction, bestow'd in vain upon the Place. Infomuch, that the Governour of the City declar'd, that he had been in several Towns beleaguer'd, but never had been witness of so much Resolution as the Inhabitants of Groning had made appear in fuch a smart and violent Siege. To which they were not a little encourag'd, by the care which his Highness took, to furnish them with all things necessary for their defence.

During this extraordinary Zeal of popular kindness for the Prince of Orange, there fell out an Accident, that prov'd an occasion to fix him more deeply into the Peoples affection, and procur'd the destruction of two of

his greatest Enemies.

For a certain Surgeon having charg'd Cornelius Dewitt, Bayliff of Putten, and John Dewitt's Brother, with a private proposal made by him the said Cornelius, to take away the Life of the Prince: upon discovery made by the Surgeon, the Bayliff was apprehended, and committed to Prison. And tho' he strove by slat denials and recriminations of the Informer, to justify his innocency, yet being confronted by the Surgeon, who persisted in the truth of his Impeachment, confirm'd by the promise of 300000 Franks for his

his reward, fix Ducatoons paid him in hand, and several other circumstances that are usual in such kind of unnatural Treaties. The Court of Holland upon mature Consideration of the Report made by the Advocate-General, condemn'd Cornelius to the Forfeiture of all his Dignities and Employments, and perpetual Banishment out of the Territories of Holland and West-

Friesland.

But the People, who saw that the States had gone so far, believing that a Criminal so severely punish'd by them, deserv'd much more, had his Judges been less partial, began to stomach the Sentence as too easie; and with that, away they hurry'd with their Arms in their hands to the Jayl. Where, while they were all cluster'd together in the height of their fury, it happen'd, that Minheer John de Witt came in his Coach to fetch his Brother out Upon which, one of the Burgesses of Prison. let fall these words among the People, Now the two Traytors are got together, and it is our fault if they escape us. This had been enough to have fir'd the Multitude, had not a greater provocation follow'd. For while they were all expecting the coming down of the two Brothers, an unlucky Rumour was spread, that above a thousand Peasants and Fisher-men were upon their March to plunder the Hague. that, another of the Burgesses, Come, Gentlemen, cry'd he, let us pull these Traytors out by the Ears—do but follow me, and I'le lead the way. These words compleated their Rage, yet more enflam'd by their Affection to their Statholder. and their Country, against the two conceiv'd grand

grand Enemies of both. So that immediately they broke open the Prison Doors, forc'd down the two Brothers into the Street, where they were foon dispatch'd by the Multitude: who after they had laid the Pensionary sprawling upon the ground, cry'd out, See there the Traytour that has betray'd his Country. Thus fell Cornelius and John de Witt, two bitter Enemies of the House of Orange. More particularly it is reported of John de Witt, that those Politick Productions, that is to say, the Seclusion of his Highness from all his Great Employments, the Perperual Edict, and the Qualifications of the Office of Statholder, were the unlucky Inventions of that Pensioner's Brain. Upon which it was the faying of a certain Embassadour to him in private Discourse, Most Illustrious Sir, I have before now heard many things of your singular Prudence and Indefatigable Diligence, but far less then what I now observe; from whence I dare assuredly pronounce, that either You will be the Ruine of the Prince, or else that one day for his sake you will come to De-And it is farther faid, that a certain Advocate, being desir'd by his Father, when he was yet but a Lad of eighteen years of Age, to. take him into examination, gave this Testimonial of him, That he found in him those Great Parts, and that Ripeness of Wit, rarely to be found in others, that had study'd his Perfections during the whole Course of a long Life. And afterward the same Advocate, beholding him so suddenly advaned to be Pensionary of Dort and Holland, Prophesi'd this of him, That he would never dye a Natural Death.

After his Death, Minheer Fagel was chosen to succeed him, and the Election approv'd by

his Highness the Prince of Orange. In whose Favour, his Highness the Electour of Brandenburgh wrote a Letter to the States; wherein he gave them to understand, That having receiv'd the News of his Kinsman the Prince of Orange's being restor'd to the Dignities of his Ancestours, he made no doubt but that such whole some Determinations, would be prosper'd in the conclusion from Heaven for the Common Good; more especially, well knowing his Highness to be a Person that inherited all the Vertues of his Glorious Predecessours. Protesting withall, that he found himself obliged by his Exaltation, to contribute his utmost toward the Recovery and Preservation of what his Ancestours had acquir'd with so much Blood and Reputation.

Much about the same time it was, that His Highness resolving to dislodge the Out-Guards of the French, with a Party of Horse and Foot, gave a strong Alarm to the Enemy, and, without moving from his Saddle all that Night, drave the French to their Trenches before Utrecht, already not a little terrify'd with the loss of their men before Cronenburgh; and brought away several French Lords that were Hunting at the same time in the Woods of Amerong; who were fent away Prisoners to Amsterdam, with so much Civility, that there was not the least offer made to plunder them of their Rings and Jewels that glitter'd upon their Fingers.

Much about the same time also, several Alterations were made of the Magistrates of many Cities, to the great satisfaction of the Inhabitants, who saw themselves now in a fair way to be restor'd to their former Tranquility: and several Commanders receiv'd the due Punish-

ment of their Cowardise and Treachery; his Highness no longer enduring that Corruption of Military Discipline, which had provid so Fatal to his Country. These were but small beginnings, but fuch as every day more then other encreas'd the Affection of the People toward his Highness to that degree, that a Rumour being spread about the Hague, that certain Perfons in Disguise had made an Attempt upon his Person, as he was going about eight of the Clock at Night, toward the latter end of October, to visit the Princess Dowager, all the People young and old, great and small, betook themselves to their Arms, and follow'd the young Rhine-Grave, who presently mounted upon the Alarm, to his rescue. But, understanding the falshood of the Report, and that His Highness was safely arriv'd at Hount saerdyke, they return'd home with no less Joy, then they had hurry'd forth with Zeal and Fury. However it occasion'd a Resolution, that his Highness from thence-forward should always have a Guard to attend his Person.

But nothing more perplex'd the Prince, then that the year should be so far spent without any confiderable Action on his part; and therefore he resolves to attacque Woerden. . To which purpose he sends Collonel Suylesteyne, and the Count de Horn before; the first to take up his Quarters between Utrecht and Woerden, and the latter to entrench himself on Polanen and the Saw-mill side. His Highness himself sate down with four Regiments on that fide next to Bode-Presently Luxemburg hasten'd to the relief of the Besieged, and with between eight and nine thousand Men falls upon Suylesteyne's Quarter;

Quarter; but was beaten off with loss, and forc'd Thereupon the Town was furiously to retreat. batter'd, and brought to parley; but then the Duke of Luxemburg, being reinforc'd with fresh supplies, and conducted by the treacherous Peafants. through the Water, and a long Lane that was thought impassable, fell a second time, and that unexpectedly, upon the same Quarter of Suylesteyn, from whence he had been beaten the Night before; and, after a Bloody and obstinate Fight, wherein Suylesteyn refusing Quarter was Slain, at length made a shift to put three thousand Men into the Garrison. Nevertheless he was again repuls'd, upon the coming in of the Count de Horn to the Relief of the rest, and forc'd to leave the Prisoners, which he had taken, behind him.

Of the French were Slain two thousand common Souldiers, and sifty four Officers dy'd of their Wounds in sive days after the Fight, besides several others that were forc'd to have their Legs and Arms cut off. Which made the French at Utrecht report, that the Hollanders shot like Devils; insomuch that such was afterwards their dread of their Woerdon Entertainment, that the Officers of Utrecht, would usually draw Lots when they were to be sent forth upon any Parties where the Prince was

engag'd.

Of the Dutch were Slain between six and seven hundred, besides the Sieur de Suylesteyn,

and a Lieutenant Collonel.

Thereupon his Highness finding the Garrison reliev'd with such a numerous supply, drew off his Men, and retreated to his Quarters, tho' not with the Honour of a compleat Victory, yet that he rais'd his siege, without molestation.

tion, with the ruine of almost five Regiments of the French Infantry, of which the Greatest part of the Officers were either kill'd or desperately wounded, and the double repulse of an Old Experienc'd General assisted by treachery and surprize.

After the Attacque of Woerden, his Highness held a Council of War, of the Principal Officers of the Army, and then ordering the Cavalry, which had layn all the Summer at Helden, to hinder the landing of the English. to be transported through Rotterdam into Brabant, march'd himself for Rosendael, the Place appointed for the general Rendezvous. By the way a certain Collonel, out of curiofity, would needs be so inquisitive as to ask his Highness, what was the great Design he had at that time against the French? To whom his Highness putting another Question, by way of reply, demanded of the Collonel, Whether he would difcover his Designs to any Person in the World, that should be so impertinently inquisitive as to ask him? Upon which, the Collonel answering in the Negative, Then, said the Prince, my Tongue is also endu'd from Heav'n with the same Grace. An Answer becoming the Wisdom of a Prince, and the Reserv'dness of a Great Commander: Like that of the Famous Conful Cacilius Metellus, to a young Friend upon the same Occasion. Having muster'd his Army at Rosendael, to the number of four and twenty thoufand Horse and Foot, he march'd directly toward the Country of Liege. Upon his approach, the Count de Duras, who lay at Maseyte, retreated with his Army to Wassemberg, and so higher up the River Roer. And indeed it appear'd that the chief Design of his Highnesse's March was to remove

remove the French, under the command of Duras, from their Quarters about the Meuse, and to have given him Battel, could he have met with a favourable Opportunity. To which purpose having pass'd his Army over a Bridge of Boats near Navagne, and join'd the Spanish Auxiliaries, he march'd directly for Tongeren, which he invested on every side with his own and the Spanish Cavalry. But understanding that the Count of Duras was decamp'd from the Place where he lay, the Prince march'd back toward Maestricht, and repassing the Meuse between Sittart and Maseike, and lodging his Army near Ainsbergh, waited there two days for an Opportunity to engage the Count; but the swelling of the River not favouring his Defign, he retreated back to Maestricht, from whence he fent out a Party of Horse and Foot to take in the strong Castle of Valcheren, which after a short Dispute surrender'd at discretion; by which means the Victors were not only Masters of the Castle, but of a great quantity of Wheat, Hay, and other Provision of Victuals. Which done, his Highness march'd to Lennich, in hopes to have engag'd the Enemy there. But the Count retreated with so much speed out of his reach, that 'twas impossible for the Prince to overtake him. Such was the Courage of his Highness at that time, notwithstanding all the Difficulties of a sharp and rigorous Season, to have fought a Victorious Enemy in the heart of his Conquests. His Highness therefore finding the Count so unwilling to hazard a Battel, came to the Castle of Dessener, and from thence fent the Count of Marcin to invest Charleroy with the Vantguard, while he follow'd with

the rest of the Army. But such was the extream cold, that it was impossible to fink any Trenches, or make any Circumvallation, fo that the Prince, after he had made himself Master of Binch, together with three Captains and three hundred Common Soldiers, and ranfack'd and demolish'd the Town, retir'd back through Brabant, and dispers'd his Army into their Winter Quarters. Montal, who clapt himself somtimes into Tongeren, and somtimes into Charleroy, afraid of both places, yet not knowing where the Prince would fix, then found himfelf deceiv'd, to believe the Prince had any defign to undertake long fieges in the most sharp and rigorous Season of the Year. Yet this was remarkable, that so young a General should be able with an Army compos'd of so many Nations, to march in the depth of bitter Winter into an Enemies Country, remove an old General from his Post, Challenge him to Battel, and to that purpose hunt him from place to place, terrifie two strong Garrisons, and return with the Pris'ners and Booty of two fortifi'd places, and all this within the space of nine days, with little or no loss of his own Besides the Terror which he struck into the Bishop of Cologne, who thought himself fecure neither at Bon, nor any other part of his Territories, so long as his Highness quarter'd fo near him.

During this Expedition of the Prince, the Duke of Luxemburgh, having drawn together an Army of fourteen thousand Horse and Foot, with a resolution to invade the Province of Holland, in hopes to enrich himself and his Army, with the plunder of Leyden and the Hague,

Hagne, began his march from Woerden, over the Ice, with the flower of the French Army, toward the latter end of December; but being come to Slimwetering, the Enemy found the Waters there so high, that only three thoufand five hunder'd of the lightest of the Infantry were able to get over. The rest were constrain'd to return to Woerden. These 3500 first attacqu'd Nieucrop, but were beaten off by the Peasants, so that finding themselves repuls'd on that side, they directed their march towards Swammerdam, where the Souldiers were the first that ran for't, leaving the Inhabitants to the mercy of the Enemy. However the Count de Coningsmark, who commanded at Bodegrave, being advertis'd of the march of the French, hasten'd toward Leyden side, and posted a Regiment at Gours Sluys, to prevent their passage that way.

This desperate march of the French, put the People at first into a great Consternation, more especially at the Hagne. But nothing more daunted them, then to hear that, while the States had taken all the care imaginable, to prevent the return of the the Enemy, Collonel Paine Vin had abandon'd his Post at Niewerbrong, and was retir'd to Gouda, by which means the Enemy had a free passage open for their Retreat, who must else have perish'd all in the Water, or have furrender'd themselves Pris'ners, by reason of the sudden thaw that ensu'd. But all their Fears soon vanish'd upon the return of the Prince of Orange out of Brabant; who, having at Breda receiv'd Intelligence of this Attempt of the French, hasten'd with all imaginable speed to Alfen; and in a short time, by the strange effects of his Presence, restor'd all

Duke of Luxemburgh was present all along, and had like to have been lost by a fall from his Horse into the thaw'd water; in so much that his Men had much a-do to recover him; however though he did not lose himself, he lost above six hunder'd of his chosen Souldiers; and

fo this flippery Expedition ended.

True it is, that the French committed most exorbitant Cruelties at Swammerdam, and other places that fell into their Hands, by the Ravishing of Women, stripping and wounding the Aged and Decrepit, and throwing Infants that smil'd in their Faces, into the Fire, but those Losses were in some measure repay'd by the regaining of Coevorden. This City, which is one of the most Noble and Goodly pieces of Fortification in all the Low-Countries, and held to be such over all Europe, the Key of the Provinces of Friesland and Groning, situated upon the Frontiers of the Drent, and confining upon the County of Bentem and Tuent, surrounded with a Mersh, and Fortify'd with large and deep double Moats, Ramparts extreamly high and strong, defended by seven Bastions, bearing the Names of the seven Provinces, and a Regular Castle, held for impregnable by the Antient Writers, fell into the hands of the Bishop of Munster, to make up the Misfortunes of this Fatal Year 1672. not without suspicion of Treachery, but after the turn of the Tide of French Victory, upon the Restauration of his Highness to his antient Dignities, was recover'd with no less Gallantry then it had been lost before by dishonourable For this very place which Verdugo Cowardise. had besieg'd in vain, for one and thirty weeks together,

together, and which the Bishop of Munster, after he became Master of it, had furnish'd with a considerable Magazine, intending to make it the Seat of his War in those Parts, was by a Party of only 960, retaken within the space of one Hour, with the loss of hardly threescore Men. of the Enemy a hunder'd and fifty besides Officers were flain in the Assault, and four hundred and thirty taken Prisoners, among whom were fix Captains, eleven Lieutenants, and fourteen Ensigns. The rest (for the whole Garrison amounted to 900) made hafte to escape so soon as they saw the place was lost. But that which was more considerable, was the Possession of such an important Fort, furnish'd to the hands of the Victor, with such an infinite quantity of warlike Ammunition, provided without question for a longer defence. More then that, as the Recovery of this renowned Fortress, highly encourag'd the Dutch, fo it no less astonish'd the Enemy; whose consternation was such, that upon news of their loss, they abandon'd several of their Garrisons, and shifted every one for themselves. All which redounded to the Glory of his Highness; for that the People, finding such prosperous Alterations upon his coming to the management of Affairs, were easily induc'd, as they had reason, to believe, that all their unexpected successes were but the effects of his Couragious Influences.

Therefore it was that the same Authority which Aristides had over the Athenians, the Prince had over the People of the Low-Countries. Which made them submit to what ever he approv'd. So that he conquer'd their Domestick Differences, with the same good Fortune that he vanquish'd their

their Foreign Enemies; for always Reverence and Awe accompany Affection, more especially. when gain'd by sweetness and moderation. From whence it came to pass, that when the dissentions betwen the Magistrates of Friesland were grown to that height, that the new and the old Magistrates, representing each the Soveraignty of the Province, held their Assemblies apart, and acted quite contrary to one another (a strange irregular motion, and pernicious to the publick good, which neither the Governour of Friesland, nor his Mother could reduce into Order) yet so foon as the Commissioners arriv'd among them, which were fent by his Highness, those Breaches were in a short time repair'd, and the Province

was restor'd to its former Unanimity

But going in Person, to pacifie the Dissentions in Zeland, He no sooner appear'd in the General Assembly of the States at Middlebourgh, but their discords vanish'd, and all things were settled in order to the defence of the Country, to the full content of the Province in General, the Magistrates in particular, and his Highness's eternal Praise. From thence he took an occasion to visit the Frontier-Fortifications of Flushing, Sluyse, Ardenburgh, (where the Keys of the Town were deliver'd him in a filver Bason, by the young Virgins of the City deckt with Garlands of several flowers) Y sendik, Berghen-Op-Zoon, Breda, Bois le duc, and after a strict survey with no less care then toyl return'd to the Hague.

The Spring was now far spent, and now, if ever, the Hollanders had their hands full : Being affail'd on the one side by the King of France in Person with a Puissant Army; while Conde and Luxemburgh lay at Utrecht with powerful Forces, watching

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watching all opportunities to break into the Heart of their Territories, and by Sea, no less vigorously attack'd by the King of Great Brittain with his own and the greatest part of the Naval Force of the French Dominions. For which reason, the Prince of Orange had no leisure to stir abroad; as being constrain'd to keep his Post at home, as well to watch the designs of Conde and Luxemburgh, as to prevent the threaten'd De-

scents of the English.

In the beginning of May therefore, the King of France fet forward from Paris with a numerous Army, with which several other great Bodies were to joyn, that lay ready in several parts of his new Conquests; and after a slow march, upon the tenth of June, fate down with his whole Army of 42000 Horse and Foot before Maestricht; having before given Order to the Count de l'Orge, to invest it with three thousand of his Cavalrie. The Garrison confifted of about four thousand Foot, and between eight and nine hundred Horse, under the Command of Monsieur de Farianx Governour of the Town, a Resolute and Experienc'd Commander, as it may easily appear, by the stout resi-stance which he made against the whole Power of France, and the deluge of blood which the Purchase cost the King, no less then the slaughter of above nine thousand of his stoutest Common-Souldiers, and an infinite number of his choicest Officers. Nor had he had it neither at so cheap a rate, as many believe, could the belieged but have been reliev'd in time, with no more then the recruit of a thousand Men, and a supply of Match, which they began extreamly to want.

It would be too tedious to give an exact ac-

count of the bloody disputes by day, and conflicts by night, enlighten'd with the continual Flames of the Batteries on both sides, which is the work of a Journal rather then a History; and therefore let it suffice to say, in short, that after the Garrison by a valiant defence of near three weeks, was reduc'd to half their number, by innumerable Batteries, Assaults, and Stormings of fresh Assailants day and night; and the remainder quite tyr'd out with continual labour and watching, the Governour was at length forc'd, by the Petitions of the Magistrates and Ecclesiasticks of the Place, to Capitulate, and furrender upon the most honourable terms of War. Of all which, when the Governour made his report to his Highness, he was so well satisfy'd in the Gallantry of his Performance, that he presently preserr'd him to be Major General of his Army.

For indeed, the contest had been so sharp for the time, and so mortal to the French, that the King, so soon as he had taken the Town, thought he had done enough for that Summer; and therefore, after he had demolish'd the Fortisications of Tongres, he broke up his Army, and sent one part of it to the recruit of Turenne, another to waste and harrass the Country of Treves, in regard the Elector had taken part with the Emperour, and three Brigades more to re-

inforce his Army to Holland.

Thus the French Army being dispers'd, and the English Fleet after the last Engagement being retir'd from the Coast of Holland, the Prince of Orange now at more liberty, and not enduring to lye still, call'd off his Forces that lay for the defence of Zeland, to joyn with the rest

rest of the Army; and decamping from Raemsdonk, of a sudden sate down before Naerden, with five and twenty thousand Men. His Highness took up his Quarters at Bussum, Count Waldech in the Churchyard of Loofdrecht, Ankeveen, and Helver sum, while Major General de Farianx Commanded the Cavalry. In the mean time the Duke of Luxemburg having drawn together a Body of ten thousand men, besides four Regiments of Munster Horse, advanc'd within view of the Princes Circumvallations and Entrenchments, which were by that time finish'd; but not daring to attempt the fuccour of the Town. the Prince proceeded, storm'd the Counterscarp and Ravelin before the Huyser Port, and after three hours resistance, made himself Master of both; forc'd the belieg'd to retire in great confusion into the City, and the next day, upon the loss of their defences, to beat a Parley; which procur'd the furrender of the Town, upon Articles to march out, with Colours flying, Drums beating, and two pieces of Canon.

When the Garrison march'd out, the Governour saluted his Highness with a prosound submission; and it is said, that he assur'd the Prince that he had Reasons sufficient to surrender the Town in so sew days, which he would declare in due time and place to his Master the King. But it seems his reasons were not sufficient; for he was condemn'd to perpetual Imprisonment, and had his Sword broken over his head at Otrecht. For indeed it was admir'd by all, men, that the French should so easily yield up so strong a Hold, and so well provided for its desence. For it had within it a Garrison of

2930 Men, and wanted neither Provision nor Ammunition besides that the French, while they were Masters of it, had greatly added to the strength of the Fortifications.

But what soever were the cause, whether the divisions between the Switzers and French, as some conclude, or any other, his Highness won it in four days, and lost no more then a hundred men flain, and two hundred wounded, in a Conquest so important, whereas the Besseg'd loft many more; which is usually contrary to the custom of Sieges. Rather therefore, the true cause of so quick a dispatch of a Leaguer, lookt upon to be so difficult, may be attributed to the courage of his Highness, who spar'd not to expose his Person in all places of greatest danger, as well in the Trenches, as upon the Batteries, to animate the Souldiers by his Example. Nor was his Highness less careful to preserve, then to acquire; and therefore, after he had given all necessary Orders for the repair of the Fortifications, and settlement of the Garrison, he made the Count de Conningsmark, a Commander of known Resolution and Experience, Governour of the Which done, he return'd to the Hague, to pre-

pare for greater Defigns.

For now the States of the United Provinces, having enter'd into a more strict Allyance with Spain, for mutual Defence against the French, as the Common Enemy of both, by which they were oblig'd to affift each other with their joynt Forces; and the Emperour also, having at the same time leagu'd himself in the same Confederacy, (which gave it the Name of the Tripple Allyance) in pursuance of which, his Army that was to be no less then twenty thoufand Foot and ten thousand Horse; was already upon their March to the common Affistance, his Highness therefore, that he might do something Remarkable before the Season of the Year slipt away, sends his Army before to Rosendael in Brabant, and making haste himself after it, joyns with the Count de Monterey, who readily yielded the Precedence and Command of the whole to his Highness. Thereupon his Highness, finding that Condé had chang'd his Post upon Intelligence of this Conjunction, and lay so strongly Entrench'd, that it was impossible to assayl him in his Fastness, he March'd directly forward, and between Andernach and Bon, joyn'd with the Imperial Army under the Command of Montecuculi. In his March he fummon'd Rhinback; which, through the Obstinacy of a Seditious Burgher,

Burgher, who encourag'd the rest to Resistance, resusing to submit, he commanded the Sieur Valkenburgh, with two Regiments of Dragoons and two of Foot to storm the Town. Which was done with that sury, that the Souldiers upon their first Entrance put all to the Sword that came in their way, and among the rest hang'd up the Burgher that had occasion'd the unseasonable Resistance.

Thus the Confederates being joyn'd, the Siege of Bon was resolv'd upon, and the Marquess of Arsentar, to that purpose, sent to take up his Quarters at Kessenig. The next day Montecuculi lodg'd the Imperialists at Goedesbergh, and his Highness lay with his Forces at Rijnderf, while General Spork with the Imperial Cavalry, Quarter'd himself on the

other side of the Town near the Wester-waldt.

Bon is a confiderable Town, by the Romans call'd Julia Bonna, seated upon the Rhine, about four Leagues from Cologne, and being then in the hands of the Electour of Cologne and the French, was by them furnish'd with a Garrison of two thousand Men under the Command of Gen. Lants-berghen, and stor'd with Provisions and Ammunition of all forts, besides fourscore great Guns mounted upon their Walls and Bulwarks. However the Confederates not thinking Naerden fufficient Payment for the loss of Maestricht, resolv'd to have this Town too into the Bargain. Nor durst Condé attempt to give them any Interruption himself, only he sent Marshal D'Humieres with a Body of 7000 Horse, to face the Leaguer, and at the beginning of the Siege, to try what reinforecements of Men he could put into the Garrison. To that purpose he advanc'd as far as Birchem, from whence he sent a Party of a hundred Horse, who feigning to be the Duke of Lorain's Men, were let pass by the Sentinels, through the Quarter of the Imperialists, and got into the Town. But another Hundred hoping to have the fams success through the Quarter where his Highness lay, found the Sentinels more mistrustful, so that they were almost all cut to pieces or taken Prisoners; which sad tidings reaching the Ears of five hundred more, that lay hid behind a Neighbouring Wood upon the same design, they retreated in a good Hour, to their Body. For by this time General Spork had drawn forth an equal Body of Horse, to encounter the French. Which the Marshal understanding, made a swift retreat out of his Reach, and return'd to Utrecht. On the other fide, the Befiegers having now finish'd

their Batteries, and approaches, gave the Besieged little or no rest; and after they had brought three Mines to that Perfection, that they were ready to spring, were preparing for a General storm. However the Confederate Generals, willing to spare their Men, if softer means would prevail, sent a new Summons to the Governour to furrender the Town, more especially since they had no hopes of Relief; declaring withal, that if they pleas'd they might fend our whom they thought fit, to see the Mines that were ready to play, upon refusal to surrender upon Composition; and that they were resolv'd to make a General Assault, and put to the Sword without exception, all that they found in Arms. Which frightful Menaces so scar'd the Garrison, that after a Siege of few days, they beat a Parley, and the same day the usual Conditions being agreed upon, of marching forth with Colours flying and Drums beating, the Place was surrender'd with all the Provision and Amunition, and great Guns, excepting two that were allow'd by the Composition. Of the French Garrison there march'd out 1500. The rest being all kill'dor wounded: and of those fifteen hundred all the Germans deserted their Convoy, and listed themselves in the Emperours service.

The Town thus taken, his Highness drew off to Wesseling, and thence falling down lower with his own, and the Imperial Army, (both which he now commanded upon the return of Montecuculi to Vienna till the arrival of the Duke of Bournouvile) took in the two Castles of Brevel and Lechnich. Of which, the latter was defended by two hundred French, under the Command of a German: Who finding the Souldiers, after they had been summon'd, obstinately bent to stand upon their Guard, bethought himself of a stratagem to bring them to a compliance. To which purpose, he order'd the French to go down into the lower Court, under pretence of making that good first; and when they were all there, pull'd up the Draw-bridge behind their backs: by which means finding themselves expos'd to a far more numerous Party,

they were constrain'd to surrender the Place.

This Castle in the year 1642. had been besieg'd by the whole Army of Weimar and Hessen, under the Command of the Counts of Guebriant and Ebersteyn, and batter'd for six Weeks together with extraordinary sury, and yet notwithstanding all their Essents, they were con-

strain'd to raise their Siege.

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All this while Marshal Turenne kept himself at a Distance; for though when he heard that the Confederates were sate down before Bon, he had a great Mind to have attempted the Raising the Siege, yet when he heard that the Duke of Lorain lay quarter'd upon the Banks of the Moselle, to observe his Motion, he wheel'd about into the Electorate of Mayence, highly complaining that he could have no better Intelligence of the

Conjunction of the Confederates.

Strange were the Effects of this Expedition of his Highness the Prince of Orange. For it put the French into such a Consternation to see fuch Recoyls of Fortune, that they who lately menac'd with so much insulting Pride, the Ruine of others, were now at their Wits end how to fave themselves. Willingly they would have opposed his Designs, but they wanted Recruits, and found that Men were not fo foon born as kill'd. Their infinite Multitudes were now reduc'd to those small Numbers, that they were not able to keep the Field, without extreamly exhausting They that were fuch ill Huftheir Garrisons. bands of the Creation, and so profuse of Human Race, as to squander away so many Generations of Mankind, would now have been glad of half their havock'd Multitudes to keep their wither'd Garlands from dropping from their Foreheads. They that were so lavish of whole Armies, as if they only conquer'd to depopulate, and car'd not what they spent of their own Plenty, to be Masters of the impoverish'd Rights of Others, now found too late, that Victory bought too dear, was rather Calamity then Conquest, since Con-

Conquests could not be preserv'd without the Asfistance of the same Force with which they were at first obtain'd; beaten at a Distance by their own Prodigality, and constrain'd to surrender back their Victories by their former Wast of Courage and Resolution. While the Prince on the other side, penurious of his Men, and only venturing the Lives of his Souldiers, while he expos'd his own, upon the just Call of self Defence, gain'd easie Triumphs over the Living, for want of the Dead; and Victory courted his Prudence, finding her self so unsafe in the Rashness of his Enemies, who had fought so ill, that they were forced to repent that they had ever been her Favorites. Not upon these Considerations, but upon these Necessities, to which they had reduc'd themselves, the French were compell'd to quit a great part of their Conquests in the Low Countries, and drain their Garrifons, rather then suffer the powerful Armies of the Confederates, to recover the Cities of the Rhine, the Meuse and Mosell without Resistance.

WOERDEN was the first Place cleared, as being one of the first that had felt their Tyranny. Where the Governor receiv'd Orders from the Duke of Luxemburgh to demolish the Bulwarks of the Town, and to send away all the great Guns and Ammunition too. But as in Bodies posses'd, the ejected Spirit never leaves his Habitation without some terrible Marks of his Rage before his Expulsion; the Governor, before he stirr'd, sent for the Magistrates, and demanded twenty thousand Franks to redeem their City from Plunder and Conflagration, pretending Orders from the King and

and Duke of Luxemburgh, unless they pay'd the said Sum, to fire the Town. Nor could they prevail with all their Submissions to the Duke, whom they attended at Utrecht, for less than sisteen thousand Livres to save Burning, and one thousand Livres to preserve their Palisadoes, with Condition that their Gates, Bulwarks and Castle should remain entire; for the Payment of which, the gave Hostages. Yet such was their Treachery nevertheles, that the French had undermin'd the Castle and one of the Bastions; and had certainly blown up both, had not the Ruin been prevented by the Discovery of certain Switzers.

HERDERWICK was utterly dismantled; nevertheless they demanded 12000 Livers for their Kindness in leaving it; but in regard that all the Inhabitants of Substance had left the City before,

there was nothing to be had.

The Fort of CREVECEVR was utterly demolish'd; yet they offer'd to leave the Church and Governor's House upon the payment of 3000 Pisteles by those of Bois le Duke; which being refused, they spar'd neither the House, nor the Church.

BOMMEL, a Fortress of great consequence, upon the Fortifications of which, the King of France had expended above sixty thousand Livers, was quitted at the same time; the Inhabitants giving twelve Hostages to pay thirty six thousand Livers for the Ransom of their Houses.

Ways constrain'd to keep a Garison of six or seven thousand Men at least, and therefore proving now too Chargeable, was the next deserted Place;

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but not without Hostages given for the Payment of one hundred thousand Crowns. And now the French being all departed in one day, the Burgo-masters absolved each other from their Oaths, which they had taken against the Restoration of the Prince of Orange, and sent their Deputies to his Highness, to acknowledge him their State-holder in the Name of the whole Province. A Change no less sudden then Grateful to all the People.

In the same manner Elburgh upon the South-Sea, Campen in Overyssel, and Hattem were quitted by the French, and Steenwick and Meppell by the

Munsterians.

Thus his Highness may in some measure be said to have outdone Casar himself; for he vanquish'd where he neither came nor saw. Only the Enemy submitted to his distant Conduct, beholding the Period of their Victories in his rising Glory.

1674.

Turn of Affairs, occasion'd by the great Wisdom and Prowess of his Highness, the States General, no less Grateful, then the Prince had been Indefatigable for the Publick, not only confirm'd the Charge of Stat-holder of the Provinces of Holland and West Friezland, in the Person of his Highness during Life, but set did it likewise upon the Heirs Males of his Body, begotten in Lawful Marriage, according to the Tenor of the sollowing Decree, not to be left out in this Place.

William Prince of Orange.

as being so fair a Monument of his surpassing Merits.

Friday, February the 2d. 1674.

TAving taken into Deliberation, by way of Re-Jumption, what the Lords Deputies of the City of Haerlem proposed to the Assembly the twenty third of January last past, whether it would not be expedient, that the Charge of Stat-holder and Captain and Admiral General of the Provinces of Holland and West-Freizland, and Captain and Admiral General of the United Provinces, should descend upon the Heirs Males of his Highness the Prince of Orange, begotten in Lawful Marriage, as by the Rolls of the Same Date more amply may appear. WE, the Body of the Nobility, and the Deputies of the Cities, in the Name, and on the Behalf of the Burghers and Commonalty of the Said Cities, have declar'd, and do declare by these Presents, that having deliberately consider'd the State and Constitution of the Government of these Countries, as it was in former Times, by the Bleffing of God, under the most Illustrious Princes of Orange, of glorious Memory, His Highness's Predecessors, and particularly what has befallen this Republic, for these twenty three or twenty four Years last past, till now, we have observ'd that this Republic has been afflicted with several Calamities and Disasters, as well Domestic as Foraign, ever since the sad and unfortunate Year 1650. as to Our Foreign Calamities, We have never been without Wars, or the Fears of Wars: More particularly, one most dreadful War between the Kingdom of England and these States, which shook the very Foundations of the Government of these Countries, so that hardly it has

has recover'd Breath ever since the Said War; and another against the Crown of Portugal, in the Years 1656. and 1658. and 1659. and another occasioned by the Interest of the Northern Wars. That in the Year 1664. they had another new War with the King of Great Britain, and now this present War more sad and fatal than all the rest. And that during the whole Course of the Said War, this Republick has been constrain'd to Suffer many Affronts from her Neighbours, to whom She was before a Terrour. That as to our Domestic Affairs, We have been overwhelm'd with Intestine Divisions and Factions. That from the Year 1650. to the Year 1660. Several Members of this Republic have had a particular Aversion to the Person of the present Prince of Orange, the only Son of that Illustrious Family; and that others on the contrary bave zealously maintain'd, that the said Prince ought not to be so ungratefully abandon'd. That the King of Great Britain being recall'd to the Government of his Dominions, and passing through these Countries, in order to his Embarking for England, this Republic testify'd, as well to his Majesty, as to the Princesses Royal and Dowager, that they would take particular Care of the Interest and Education of his Highness, and to restore him to the Dignities which his Illustrious Ancestors, of glorious Memory, had enjoy'd. But that after the Death of the Said Princess Royal, all Good Will and Affection toward bis Highness was lost, and no farther notice taken of bim, till of late, that some Care was taken of his Education, and that at length, toward the end of 1671. or 1672. great Contests arose about the Election of his Highness to be Captain General of the Militia of this That we have found by sad Experience, that the Said Intestine Divisions and Factions have given an Occasion

Occasion to the Enemies of this Republick to affront us every moment, as knowing well that they render Us uncapable to mind Our own Defence, by the Violation of that Union which laid the Foundation of this Republic, and which God has so miraculously bless'd. And that the Differences which arose every day about the Election of a Captain General of the Militia, and the Discords which hapned among the principal Members of this Republic were the Occasions that retarded and hindred those Deliberations and Resolutions, which of necessity ought to have been taken, to repel for aign Force, and made us spend in idle Disputes, that precious Time which ought to have been better husbanded. Said Divisions were the Reason, that toward the Year 1671. when the King of France openly declar'd that he would make a War against this Country, we con-Sum'd whole Months together in deliberating about the Election of a Captain General, and whether to pitch upon the Person of his Highness, which Time ought to have been spent in providing for the Defence of the State. And that for the same Reason it was, that the King of France invaded this Country by force of Arms, in the Year 1672. and reduc'd Us to the last Extremities and Hazard of total Ruine. That therefore the Lords, the States of Holland, have deem'd it necessary, as the only Expedient that they can imagin or hope for, absolutely to pluck up by the Roots the Occasions of the Said Factions and Divisions, to prevent their falling any more into those Misfortunes and Miseries to which they have been hitherto exposed; and on the other side, to acknowledge the great Services which the most Illustrious House of Orange has from time to time perform'd for the Preservation and Establishment of this Republic. For these Reasons, the Lords of the Body of the Nobility,

bility, as also the Deputies of the Cities have unanimously conferr'd, and by these Presents do confer, in the Name, and on the Behalf of the Burghers and Commonalty of the Said Cities, upon his Highness and his Heirs Male, begotten in Lawful Matrimony, the Charge of Stat-holder, Captain and Admiral General of the Provinces of Holland and West-friezland, with all the Dignities, Preeminences, Prerogatives, Rites and Priviledges thereto belonging, without any Exception or Reservation, in as ample and, in the same manner, as the same Charge is at present executed by his Highness. And consequently, that after the Decease ef his said Highness (to whom nevertheless the States of Holland wish a long and happy Life, in all Health and Prosperity) the Said Charge of Statholder, Captain and Admiral General of the Provinces of Holland and West-friezland, with all the Dignities, Preeminences, Prerogatives, Rites and Privitedges thereunto belonging, without any Exception or Re-Servation, shall devolve and descend upon his Heirs Males, begotten in Lawful Wedlock. In pursuance of which Resolution, the Said Lords of the Body of the Nobility have order'd Letters Patents to be drawn up, and Seal'd with the Great Seal of the Said Provinces, &c.

The same Day also the States of Zealand conferr'd the same Dignities upon his Highness, and made him withal Hereditary Noble of their Province.

And now it was high time to cleanle that Augean Stable of Disorder and Confusion, with which the French had over-run and contaminated the settl'd Government of those Provinces, where they

they had left behind them the Slot and Defilement of their Licentious Violence. Therefore the Prince, well knowing it was no less the Glory of a Sovereign Governour to correct and reform at Home, as well as to Conquer Abroad, and that the Recovery of lost Territories was but half Performance, till they were reduc'd to their Pristine Methods of antient Laws and Customs, hasten'd to Utrecht, to re-settle the Government of that Province.

To which purpose, he was no sooner arriv'd in that City, but he repair'd to the Assembly of Estates, and in Place made a new Election of Persons to officiate in the Colledge of Counsellers Elect. After that, he made a new Choice of others to represent the Body of the Nobility; and in the last place, made a select Choice of Men of Ability and Integrity to officiate in the Magi-

stracy and Council of the City.

This done, his Highness gave them to understand, that at the Request of several of the Burghers, he had drawn up a Draught of certain Orders, for the better Government of the Province for the future, yet that he would not impose any thing upon them, without the Advice and Approbation of them that were present. Upon which they all retir'd to their several Assemblie, and after due Debate, unanimously submitted to the Regulations that his Highness had propos'd, which were to this Effect.

That the Government of the Province should reside in the Hands of three distinct Societies as formerly, the Counsellors Elect, the Body of the Nolville, and the Deputies of the Cities. That the Counsel-

Counsellors Elect should continue in their Places during the spaces of three years, and no longer, and that at the Expiration of the said Term (of which they were to give three Months Notice to the Governour General) it should be lawful for him to continue the Old ones, or make new Alterations as he pleas'd himself, without Contradiction, provided he introduc'd none but such as were of the Reformed Religion; and moreover, that of these Counsellors Elect, four were to be Burghers, and four Gentlemen.

That the Governour General should have the Disposal of the vacant Places of the Provosts, as also of the Revenues of the Vicaridges belonging to the Provost, Deans and Friery Chapters, so soon as they should become vacant, for the Relief of poor Ministers, and Widows of Ministers, and for other Pious Uses within the Province. That to avoid Disputes about the Convocation of the Nobility, the Governour should have the sole Power, upon the Death of any one or more of that Number, to invest in his or their Room, such Person or Persons as he should think fit, of the Reformed Religion, with respect to their Age, their Birth and Estate, with several other Particulars, in reference to the Bayliffs of Cities, Presidents, Advocates, Fiscalls, Marshals of the respective Quarters, and all Military Employments, of which, all the Vacancies after the first Nomination and Election of the Governour General, were to be, for the future, at his Disposal. And lastly, there was the Form of an Oath produc'd, which every one that were present took without any scruple, and which all others were oblig'd to take, Mutatis

Mutatis Mutandis, according to their several Functions. Lastly, upon a Proposal, whether it were not proper to confer the Office of Governour General, Captain and Admiral General of the Province upon his Highness and his Male Issue Lawfully begotten; the Proposition was unanimously embrac'd, and the Dignity conferr'd without any farther Delay. A strange and happy Turn, from constrain'd Servility, to willing and unanimous Submission, the one resembling Hell, the

other Heaven upon Earth.

At the same time General Rabenhaupt, with the Militia of Frise and Groninghen, reinforc'd with the Regiment of Burmania, having taken the Field, made himself Master of Northom, which he mann'd with fixteen Troops of Horse, and fix Companies of Foot, and thence advancing into the Twent, took in several lesser Places, with an intent to clear those Parts of the Munsterians, to which purpose he prolong'd his March as far as Nyenbuys. Presently the Munsterians upon Notice of his Absence surround Northom again with five Regiments of Horse, three Troops of Dragoons, and three hundred Foot under M. General Nagel, and beat the Out-guards of the Garrison into the Town. Of which General Rabenhaupt having Intelligence, hastens back to the Relief of the Place, and forc'd the Enemy to a swift retreat with the loss of fixty Men slain upon the Place, and fifty taken Prisoners. The next day he return'd to Nyenhuys, and because he was resolv'd to make quick Work, gave Order to five several Regiments, to storm the Town in five several Places at once. Which was done with that fury,

that after a quarter of an hours dispute, the Enemy was driven into the Castle, which was only a House environ'd with a single Rampart defended by two great Guns; Which the Affailants purfuing their Advantage were just ready to enter when the Enemy cryed for Quarter, and had it granted to the whole Garrison, to the Number of three hundred and twenty Foot, and thirteen Officers; and two hundred and seventy Horse and Dragoons, and fifteen Officers. General Rabenhaupt thus successful returns to his Winter Quarters and disperses his Men; which Nagel had no sooner Notice of, but he returns to Nyenbuys, and re-

covers it again for the Bishop of Munster.

However the Bishop of Munster not liking these uncertain Chances of War, or rather dreading upon the Approach of the Imperialists, the loss of his own, while he was invading his Neighbours Territories, makes his peace with the Emperor. Which so discourag'd the French in the Frontier Garisons of their Netherland Conquests not yet forsaken, that the Marquis of Bellefonds, who succeeded Marshal a' Humieres in the Government of those Parts, resolv'd to quit the rest, under pretence of a greater necessity to preserve their Acquists upon the Rbine. Besides he had Intelligence of the Prince of Oranges intended March into Brabant, with Thirty thousand Men to joyn the Spanish Army of Twenty Thousand more. So that the Marquis instead of fortifying, began to think of demolishing all the Places that remain'd under his Command. Tiel compounded for 20000 Florins to fave themselves from Plunder and Conflagration, and 2000 for the

the Preservation of their Bulwarks. Zuephen agreed for 70000 Florins and gave twelve Hostages: and the City of Arnheime concluded with the French Treasurer, for a hundred and fixty Florins, besides 4000 Bushels of Wheat and Meal, which they were oblig'd to send to Graves. Deventer was also cleared by the Bishop of Munster for 4000 Rix Dollers, and gave Hostages. And thus the whole Province of Overyssel regain'd their ancient Liberty, under their Native and Lawful Soveraigns. Thereupon his Highness deputed Commissioners, to make such Alterations in the Government as was requiite for the present, and to settle the Affairs of those Parts, till he had leifure to make a fecond review, and compleat the Regulation of the French Disorders.

The King of France seem'd highly to be offended at these Proceedings of the Marquess, casts him quite out of his favor, sends him back into France, and as it were exiles him to Bourguise, commanding him not to appear at Court. Though others were of opinion that they were only Bravado's to conceal his Necessities, and that he was glad of those Reinforcements to carry on his Designs upon Franchie Conte. However all men ascrib'd the Honour of these constrained Desertions to his Highness of Orange; and well indeed they might, as being the Person who like another Scipio, by carrying the War into the Enemies Country, had in less than two years time, compell'd all the French Hannibals to quit his own, and to look after the main Chance.

However the King of France having thus lost in one place, like the Sea, resolves to gain in another,

ther, and to that purpose enters with an Inundation of Men into Franchie Conte. Where under the Protection and Guard of another Army as numerous as his own, commanded by the Prince of Conde, in a short time he took Becanson, Dole, Malins, and made himself Master, according to his wishes, of the whole Province.

Upon the Assembling of these two Numerous Bodies together, his Highness the Prince of Orange, repairs to the Army at Berghen op Zoom; from whence he Marches for Malines, and lay upon his Guard in Brabant, during all the time of the King of France's new Neighbourhood. But he being departed for Paris, after he had compleated his Conquest, with the loss of many a brave Officer, and some thousands of his stoutest Souldiers, the Imperialists fall down to Namurr, and by the taking of the Castle and Dinant, having obtain'd a free passage over the Meuse, cross the River, and joyn with the rest of the Confederates toward the end of July. At what time after a short Conference between the three Generals. it was order'd that General Souches should lead the Van; that his Highness the Prince of Orange should command the main Battel, and the Count de Monterey the Rear-guard. In this Order it was that the Confederates prepar'd to Attack the Prince of Conde, who with an Army of Fifty thousand Men, lay Encamp'd behind the River Pieton, to thwart the Designs of the Enemy. On the other fide the Confederates being Sixty thousand strong, resolv'd to draw the Prince from his Post, and give him Battel; to which purpose they March'd directly toward him; being plentifully supplied with all manner of Provisions out of Bra-bant.

With this resolution the three Armies arriv'd at Nivel, at the beginning of August; where they Encamp'd for some days. But because they faw that the Prince of Conde made no Preparations to come forth, but rather fought to fortify himself to greater advantages within his Trenches, the Confederates thought it necessary to make their Approaches a little nearer to him; to try whether he would hazard a Battel in the open Field. To which purpose being arriv'd within five or fix Miles of the French Camp, they labour'd by all the ways imaginable to draw the Prince of Conde out of his Trenches. But all in vain; for the Prince, whether it were by Order of the King, or the effect of his own deliberations, would not stir. Thereupon seeing all their Pains prov'd ineffectual, they resolv'd to Attack some place of importance belonging to the French, believing that the Prince would iffue forth to relieve it, and that so they might compass Designs.

With these Resolutions of his Highness of Orange decamp'd from Seneff, and directed his March toward Binch. The Imperialists had the Van-guard, the Holland Army the main Battel, and the Spaniards brought up the Rear. Moreover, by reason of the narrowness of the Passages the Cavalry March'd on the Left hand, the Infantry in the Middle, and the Artillery together with the Baggage on the Left. And to secure their March, the Count of Vaudemont was left behind with 4000 Harse and some Draggage.

Horse and some Dragoons.

The

The Prince of Conde having Intelligence of this Movement, and knowing well the difficulty of the ways, through which the Confederates were to pass, fail'd not to put his Men in Order. However because he did not think it so safe to cope with Confederates upon equal Terms, He therefore let the Vanguard pass, and a good Part the Main Body some Leagues before. But when he thought they were advanc'd so far before; that they could not return in time, he then thought it high time to fall upon their Rearguard. Thereupon the Prince drew out of his Trenches, and March'd directly against the Cavalry commanded by the Prince of Vaudemont, who finding himself in a Country where the Horse could not so well act their parts by reason of the many Ditches and Enclosures, sent to his Highness of Orange for two Battalions of Infantry, while his Horse were engag'd with the Enemy; thereupon, his Highness sent him three, under the Command of the Young Prince Maurice of Nassau. Being arriv'd they were placed on the other fide of Seneff, before the Cavalry, in a kind of a Thicket. But for as much as the whole Army of the Enemy was now March'd out of their Trenches, it was thought convenient to fend for the Troops that lay on the other fide of the River which runs by Seneff; and then they planted the three Battalions of Foot, which were posted before in the Wood, close by the Bridge of Seneff, over which the French were to pals. There they had not been long, before the French attack'd as well the Cavalry as the Dragoons and Infantry, but notwithstanding all their fury, they

could not force them to forsake their Post, so that the French were forc'd to quit their design of gaining that Pass, and made a Bridge over the River a little higher. So that after they had by that means joyn'd all their Forces together, the confederate Cavalry was rang'd behind the Infantry, yet so as they were still ready to come up to their relief. In the mean time the Foot fird with great fury upon the French that had past the River and had made a great flaughter. But in regard the confederates were very much streighten'd for want of Ground, and that the French fell in from all parts of the Wood, the confederate Infantry was forc'd to recoile, being overlaid by the numbers of the Enemy, which was the reason that they lost several of their Principal Officers. For here it was that the Young Prince Maurice, who Commanded the Brigade, was taken Prisoner with several other Officers, and that Lieutenant Collonel Machinits was kill'd.

So foon as the Foot were retired, the French rigorously pushed on toward the Cavalry commanded by the Prince of Vaudemont, and the Prince of Conde began to range his Men in Battel-array, ordering his Foot to March under the coverts of the Hedges and Bushes. Thereupon the Confederate Horse were ordered to give them a home Charge. Which when they were preparing to do, they found a Hollow way between both Parties, so that they were ordered to wheel off to the Right hand, and joyn the rest of the Army, for fear the Enemy should intercept their Retreat and charge them in the Flanck. The French observing that, wheeled away to the Lest, and made such

hast to charge that Body of Cavalry, that the Prince of Vaudemont had only time to order the three Battalions of Foot, to make head against the Enemy. This first Encounter prov'd unfortunate to the Confederates; for that the three Commanders in Chief of this Brigade were all taken Prisoners with several others of the greatest Quality; as the Duke of Holstein, the Prince of Solms and Permillac, who were Prisoners, and Monsieur de Languerac slain. And though all endeavours were us'd to rally the four Battalions, there was no good to be done: for they betook themselves to flight, without discharging one Volley upon the Enemy. True it is that the Prince of Vaudemont, shew'd all the marks of an Extraordinary Courage and Valour. all his Labours were in effectual. And here it was also, that his Highness of Orange gave particular Testimonies of his undaunted Bravery, leaving nothing omitted which the nioft ancient and most experienc'd Commander could have done. For he threw himself with his Sword in his Hand before the daunted Fugitives, and by all the ways imaginable endeavour'd to stop their flight, and with his own Example to encourage them to renew the Combat; So that he was often in danger either of being slain or taken Prisoner. But there was no good to be done till they were got under the Shelter of a Body of the Spanish Horse, that was posted at the Foot of a little Hill between them and the Another Party of those run-aways Village of Tey. joyn'd themselves with sixteen Battalions of Foot, under the Command of the Duke of Villa Hermosa, who when the pursuing French drew near, march'd against them at the Head of his Troops, and

and perform'd all that could be expected from a Person of his Valor and Conduct, in the desperate Condition of Assairs at that time. The rest of the dismay'd Consederates joyn'd themselves with a Body of Infantry, that was likewise posted at the foot of the same Mountain.

On the other side the Prince of Conde, who was advanced fo far in the pursuit, fell furiously upon the Spanish Cavalry, and the Foot which he had already driven thither for their security. Which caus'd the Marquess of Assentar to send for four Regiments more from the Foot of the Mountain to reinforce his Cavalry. Which the Prince of Conde observing, ordered five or six Battalions of Infantry to advance, together with a Brigadeof Horse, and then dividing his conjoyned Troops into right and left Wings, Charged the Confederate Horse in Front, and put them into some disorder. And here it was again that the Marquess did the utmost he could, by his Example, to rally his Men and restore the Fight. till at length being Wounded in seven places, he was at last slain outright at the Head of his The Horse being thus disorder'd, fell Troops. foul upon the four Battalions of Infantry, that were fent to their Relief, and put them likewise into a great Confusion, notwithstanding all the Industry of the Duke of Villa Hermosa, and the Prince of Vaudemont to rally them again; and not only so, but they disorder'd the remaining part of the Infantry that lay posted under the Mountain, though Count Waldeck did all he could to unite them again. But finding 'twas all but labour lost, he charged the Victorious Enemy in 1 2

flank, with a fresh Body of Horse, which had joyned him but a little before; And certainly there was all the reason in the world, to have expected a good Effect of this Encounter, considering the Valour and Experience of the Commander, had he been well Seconded; but being overlaid by the Numbers of the Enemy, he rescu'd himself out of the Medley, after he had slain two of his Antagonists, hand to hand; and at length bleeding from three Wounds recover'd the

rest of the Body.

In the heat of this Hurly burly, some of the Enemies Battalions had made themselves Masters of the Baggage belonging to the Holland Army, and had Pillag'd some part. For the Waggoners instead of Barricading themselves within their Wagons, cut their Horses Harness, and slew sull speed without ever looking behind them, some to Brussels, some to other Places, where they spread a Report that all was lost. And indeed the Prince had had a very great Advantage in this Battle, could he have been contented with what he had already gain'd; but his impetuous Nature would have all or none; which happen'd to be his Fate at length.

For after he had embattell'd together his own Life-Guard, his Cuirasseers, and the rest of his Troops that lay behind, he advanc'd toward the main Body of the Confederates, commanded next under his Highness of Orange by Prince Maurice, the Rhine Grave, and Major General Vane. At the same time General Souches, who lead the Vanguard, and was advanc'd some hours march before the rest of the Army, having Intelligence of what had past,

hasten'd

hasten'd back with all speed, and by one of the clock in the Asternoon joyn'd the main Battle. At what time his Highness advantageously embattell'd the Imperialists and Spaniards in the left Wing, and gave the right to his own Men: And then it was, that the Fight renew'd with more Fury and Vigor then ever.

The D.of Luxemburgh commanded the Right Wing of the French, and the D. of Nouailles the left; for the Marquiss of Rochfort, the Chevalier Tourilles, and the Count of Montal were all three

wounded already.

The first Contest of the French was the most furious that ever was known, during the whole War. Honour, Hatred, Revenge, Hope and Despair were the Incentives of their Valour on both fides. Hope of Victory animated both Armies, and both equally desperate seem'd equally resolv'd rather to dye than be o'recome. His Highness the Prince of Orange, shewing himself in all Places, omitted no Pains upon an Occasion so important, that might conduce to Victory; sometimes throwing himself into the thickest of his Enemies, to the palpable hazard of his Life. And the Souldiers being animated by his Example, fought with Emulation to out-do one another; so that it may be truly faid, that they withstood the impetuous shock of the Enemy with a relistance not to be exprest. Which having disappointed the Prince of Conde's Expectations, he endeovour'd to wheel off his Men to the left; but Mr. de Fariaux, a Person of approved Valor, and Major General of the Holland Army, being fent with some Squadrons of Infantry, seconded by the Count of Chavagnaux, who

commanded a Battalion of Imperial Cavalry to prevent that delign, withstood the French with so much Bravery, that they were forc'd to retire; and upon that, the Count sent for four Pieces of Canon, with which he annoy'd the Enemy much more. General Souches flung himself into the thickest of the Enemies, and gave those proofs of a more than ordinary Valor, which he was always wont to do upon the same occasions. The Prince of Lorain did no less, as He that was seen several times to fight at the head of the first Ranks, though not without the loss of some blood, he was at length forc'd to retire out of the Fight. Prince Pio, who was drawn up with his Brigade near the Village of Seneff, accompanied with the Marquiss of Grana and the Count of Starenburgh, after he had fignalized himself by many brave exploits, was wounded in the Thigh with a Musket Shot. But for all that, the Marquess of Grana, and the Sons of General Souches behav'd themselves so valiantly at the head of their Squadrons, that the French Switzers could not gain upon them an Inch of ground, which contributed very much to the enfuing fuccess of the Battle.

In the meantime the Prince of Conde charged the Right Wing of the Confederates with his Cuiraffeers, and the Troops belonging to the King's House; but to as little purpose. Only that about seven a clock in the Evening he brake through two Squadrons of Foot that were drawn up in a Meadow at a distance. But such was then the signal Service which Prince Maurice did the States; that he stopp'd the Imperuosity of the Enemy, and prevented any farther Disorder on that side, with no less

less conduct than courage. The Rhinegrave also, was so far from coming behind any of those, who behav'd themselves with the most undaunted Bravery, that it may be truly said, His Courage and Conduct were not a little contributory to the happy event of the Fight; till he was at length constrain'd to quit the Field by reason of a wound which he receiv'd. Major General Vane, and the Sieur de Villamire, having given signal Marks of their approved Valour, were both mortally wounded and dyed of their wounds.

Thus the two Armies fought till night, with an Obstinacy on both sides hardly to be parallel'd, tho the Field were all strew'd over with the Bodies of While the Combatants the flain and wounded. cover'd with blood and sweat, encourag'd one another the more by the fight of such a dismal Specta-You might see whole Battalions on both sides, sometimes recoyling, but then in an instant rally'd by the good Conduct of their Leaders: Among whom his Highness the Prince of Orange was still the First, who shew'd himself in all the heat of Action, encouraging his Men by his magnanimous Example. He was attended also by the Prince of Frise, a young Gentleman of about twenty years of Age, who fought all along by his Highness's side, in the thickest throngs of the Enemy, and perform'd all those duties of a Souldier which could be expected from a Prince so young, so valiant and generous.

And thus the Fury of the French, which at the beginning thought to have swept all before em, about ten a clock at night began to abate, the French Infantry, of which they had lost a considerable part,

drawing off at a distance, notwithstanding all the Endeavors of the Prince of Conde to have brought them on again. So that the Prince fearing some farther mischief might befal his Army, gave Orders also for the Horse to retire; only leaving certain Squadrons of Dragoons behind to secure their Retreat; which he likewise afterwards drew off, so soon as he found the remaining Part of his Army fafe; leaving by that means the Victory and Possession of the Field of Battle to his Highness the Prince of Orange; who two hours after the Retreat of the French drew off his Army also to their appointed Quarters. However he left Monsieur de Fariaux all that Night in the Field to observe the Motions of the Enemies; who ill digesting their rude Entertainment the day before, were so far from making any farther Attempt, that the Prince of Conde, only left some few Dragoons in his Old Quarters, and retired three hours March up higher, fearing the pursuit of the Confederates.

Thus ended this Bloody Battel, wherein the Confederates had the worst at the beginning, but carry'd away the Victory at the conclusion. For on the Enemies side were Slain seven Thousand Men outright, besides the wounded of which the Prince of Conde lest above own thousand sive hundred in the Villages round about, upon his leaving his old Quarters at Pieton. On the side of the Confederates the whole number of Slain Wounded, taken Prisoners and Deserters, did not amount to above six thousand sive hundred in all: besides that of the last several that were dispeired and scatter'd from their Companions in the Heat

ot

of the Medley, soon after return'd to their Colours.

It is said that there was a Letter intercepted from the Prince of Conde to the King of France, wherein he gave him an acccompt, that upon a General Review of his Army, he found himself but in a sorry Condition, as having lost the Flower of his Infantry, and the best part of his Horse, and therefore did not think himself strong enough to hazard a second encounter. Which was agreeable to the Lists of the Slain and Wounded on the French side. For not to recken the Wounded, the List of the Slain in the French Army, contained;

The Marquisses of Chauvalan,

De Clemerant,

De Bourbon, and

De Illiers.

Three Counts,

Two Cornets of the Kings Guards.

Above forty Officers of the Guards of the Kings Body.

Forty three Officers of the Queens Guards.

Three Regiments Totally ruined.

Seven hundred Switzers of the Kings Life Guard of Foot.

Nine Collonels: and eight Lieutenant Collonels and Majors.

One hundred fixty five Captains, besides Inferiour Officers.

In the List of the Slain on the side of the Confederates, were,

The Marquis of Affentar,

Major

Major General Vane,
The Sieur de Villamaire,
The Sieur de Langerac,
Five Collonels,
Four Lieutenant Collonels,
Several Captains and Inferiour Officers.

So that it was no wonder that the Prince of Conde acknowledged the ill Plight of his Army, after such a slaughter of his best and stoutest Officers; a loss far more irreparable then ten fold the number of common Souldiers. So that had it not been for the Advantage which the Prench had at the beginning of the Fight, it is much to be questioned whether the Prince of Conde must not have been forc'd to have been the unfortunate Messenger himself of an Absolute Defeat. Nor was the taking of the white standard of France (which was afterwards with great Solemnity hung up in the Church of the Carmelites in Bruffels richly Embroider'd with Gold and Silver, with a Sun in the middle passing through the Zodiac, with this haughty Motto, Nil obstabit Eunti) a mean argument of the Confederates Victory. All which redounded to the Eternal Honour of his Highness the Prince of Orange, and which was no more then General Souches himself confess'd in his Letter to the States in thele, among other words.

I have endeavour'd to discharge my duty in attending his Highness the Prince of Orange, during the Bloody and Famous Battle betwen the Confederate Armies and that of the most Christan King; the happy Issue of which has prov'd so much to the Glory of the Prince of

Orange, who shew'd upon that occasion the prudence

of an Aged Captain, the courage of a Cesar, and the undaunted Bravery of a Marius. All which, my Lords, I speak without Flattery, which is contrary to my Nature.

The next day after the fight, his Highness marched by Mons, with his whole Army, and took up his Head quarters at St. Gilaine, where he was recruited with five Dutch Regiments, and the Imperialists removed to Queveraine, where they lay still without my considerable Action till about the Eleventh or Twelsth of September.

In the mean time General Rabenhaupt undertook the Siege of Graves. Which considering the Scituation of the Place, the strength of the Garrison, the plenty of Provision and Ammunition with which it was provided, the furious Attacques of the Beseigers, and the vigorous resistance within, render'd it one of the most memorable Seiges that have happen'd for many years: and the more remarkable, for that it could not be taken, till his Highness the Prince of Orange was at leisure to set his helping Hand to it's reducement.

The Garrison consisted of ninty one Companies of Foot, amounting in all to four thousand Men, and nine Troops of Horse. The Sieur de St. Louis, an ancient and experienc'd Souldier commanded the Horse; and the Marquis de Chamilly, a valiant and expert Captain was Governour of the Town; wherein were four hundred and fifty peices of Canon, of which a hundred were mounted upon the Bulwarks; besides an infinite quanty of Powder Corp, Granados and other Warlike Ammunition;

for the French had made a Hoor'd in that place of all that they had brought away from their de-

ferred Conquests.

Before this Place, as being a great Annoyance to all the Neighbouring parts, General Rabenhaupt fare down with about twenty Regiments of Foot and some Horse, soon after reinforc'd with three Regiments of Foot and two hundred Horse under the command of D. John de Pimentel, from the Prince of Curland; and after that, with two Regiments of Horse from the Elector of Brandenburgh under the leading of Major General Spaen. Handebech lodg'd himself behind the great Damm, on that side next the Vesp; as Guisteine also did, on that fide next Overyssel. The Brandenburgh Horse lay more toward the East, to prevent releif from getting into the Town. And the General himself made his Approaches as far as the Castle of Vegesac. And thus the City being surrounded on every side, the Seige was carry'd on with no less violence by the Assailants, then vigorously defended by those within.

In the mean time this Highness the Prince of Orange, together with the Imperialists lay Quarter'd upon the Borders of Haynault, and being now well recover'd from the disorder of the late Battle, began to think of farther Action. To which purpose, when the great Convoy from Brussels was arriv'd, together with the Spanish Army, consisting of eight thousand Foot, besides the Horse and Dragoons, his Highness decamp'd with the whole Army, the twelfth of September and cross'd the River of Haine by Tournay and Ath, from thence designing for Audenard. In the mean time two

Regiments

Regiments of Foot, and two thousand five hundred Horse approaching nere to Gaunt were sent to break down the Bridges of Deynse and Harlebeke upon the River Leye and so to return to the Army. The same Evening the said Regiments were put aboard several Barges with all forts of Ammunition and Provisions together with five hundred Pioners, and sent away to Oudenard, being follow'd by a Body of two thousand five hundred Horse, which posted themselves that Night before the Town, and thut up all the Passages to the Garrison on that side. His Highness the Prince of Orange and General Souches arriv'd at the same time, and took up their Quarters, the Prince in the Abbey of Ename, and the Count of Souches on the other side of the River at Leupegem and Elare; and the Spaniards under the Marquis of Villa Hermofa at Beveren and Moregem. There was in the Town four hundred Germans, fix thousand Switzers, one thousand French, and four hundred Horse, under the Command of the Sieur de Rofquaire. And now the Confederates having finish'd their approaches, were already Masters of the Counterscarp, when the Prince of Conde being decamp'd from Beaumont, began to approach with his whole Army consisting of forty thousand Men, with a resolution to give the Confederates Battle if he could not otherwise relieve the Town. Thereupon it was the Advice of his Highness to make ready without delay and meet the Enemy, while they were yet weary and tir'd with a long march. But this magnanimous resolution took no effect, by reason that General Souches was not to be seen all that day; so that the Army was forc'd to continue

tinue in their Trenches. In the mean time the French advanc'd on the other fide toward the Imperialists. But the Count of Souches instead of ranging his Men in order to a Battle, drew out off his Trenches, and croffes the River in so much hast, that he left some peices of Cannon behind him which his Highness had sent him, and which his Highness was forc'd to recover not without some danger. Thereupon the Prince of Conde. having his way open, enter'd the Town with part of his Army. And certainly he might have had a great advantage to have cut off the Communication between the Confederates, had not a thick Fog that fell of a suddain prevented his

design.

His Highness therefore, considering the condition of Affairs thought it not fafe to hazard his Army any longer in that place, and therefore march'd after the Imperialists and Spaniards whom he overtook within a League of Oudenard. There his Highness drew up his Army, while the Prince of Conde having pass'd with all his Forces through Oudenard, Embattell'd his Men at the Foot of the Mountain of the Trinity, between the City and the Confederates. But in regard there was a narrow pass between both Armies where six Men could hardly march a breast, which would of necesity disorder and endanger the breaking of those that made the first Assault; that was the Obstacle that prevented the Battle; while the Confederates were unwilling to begin the conflict at such a disadvantage, and the Prince of Conde thought he had done enough to releive the Town. Thereupon the Confederates, finding the French refolv'd

resolv'd to keep their Post, drew off, and took the Road toward Gaunt, for the Conveniency of Provision. But here General Souches gave his Highness another occasion of Distaste, for that instead of following the rest of the Army, having the Rereguard, he wheel'd off a quite contrary way; so that his Highness was forc'd to send some of his own Men to secure his own Retreat.

In this Disorder and Distraction, caus'd by the Imperialists, his Highness finding no more Good to be done, resolv'd to march back to Graves, where his Presence would be more necessary because of the Siege, leaving Count Waldeck to command the Army in his Absence; where he arriv'd the 9th. of October, with fixty Cornets of Horse. His Highness's Presence gave new Courage to the Besiegers. Nevertheless, such was the strenuous and resolute Defence of the Besieged, that notwithstanding the daily Attacques of the Assailants, and that they were reduc'd to drink Water for want of other Liquor, they held out till the 25th. of October. At what time Chamilly finding fuch wide Breaches in the Fortifications, much more widen'd by the lucky blowing up of a Mine, that set Fire to a great number of Granados in the Brugg Port, and made a large Breach in the Covert Way, so that it would be impossible for him to hold out against a general Storm that was intended the next day; first, desired a Cessation of Arms for three or four hours, and within that time, took an Occasion to beat a Parley. Upon which, Hostages being given on both sides, and Commissioners sent forth to treat, the Surrender of the Town was at length agreed upon honourable Articles; and thus ended this Years Campaign. 1675.

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21.m

1675.

HE beginning of this Year began with the Grateful Acknowledgments of the Towns-men, of the fighal Services which his High. the Prince of Orange had done them in redeeming them from the Calamities and Miseries which they had suffer'd under the Tyranny of a Foreign Enemy. For which reasons, they offer'd him the Sovereignty of the Dutchy of Guelders and County of Zutphen, under the Titles of Duke of Guelders, and Count of Zutphen. But his believing that his Acceptance of those Dignities would but create Jealousie and Mistrust in some, and that others would infer from thence, that he only fought to aggrandize himself by War; therefore to convince the World of the fincerity of his Intentions, he deem'd it more proper to refuse those additional Honours: but being at the same time offer'd the Command of Governour Hereditary of the same Province, he readily accepted of that Dignity, and after he had taken his Oath, made those Alterations in the Government as suited best to the Reformation of those Disorders which the Possession of lawless Enemies had introduc'd. No less applauded for setling the Civil, than managing the Military, Concerns of his Country: which it was high time for him again to look after, and that with the soonest, in regard of the continual Alarms of the King of France's Resolutions early to take the Field in Person, this Spring. To that purpose he was continually present at all the Grand Consultations for carrying on the Summers War, the Toil

of which Deliberations, lay'd him in his Bed for a time, under the unfortunate Delay of the Small-Pox, which was the more lamented in him, because it had before prov'd so fatal to his Relations in the Persons of his Father, his Mother, and the Duke of Glocester; but by the Care and good Management of an able Physician, and certain peculiar Remedies sent him by the Elector of Brandenburgh, his Highness recover'd, to the

universal Joy of the United Netherlands.

And now being abroad again, he hasten'd to the General Rendesvouz at Rosendael, for the King of France being now upon his March for Brabant, there was a Necessity for the Prince to attend his Motion. More especially Limburgh being besieged by the Marquis of Rochefort requir'd speedy Relief. To which purpose, his Highness remov'd with his Army from Duffell, and joyns the Dukes of Lunenmburgh and Lorrain at Gangelt, with a Resolution to raise the Siege. And it might have come to a Royal Battel between his Highness and the King of France himself, (for that the King, who then lay encamp'd near Maestricht, hearing of the Prince's March, re-pass'd the Meuse at Viset, to oppose his Design) but that the Town, not able to withstand the Numbers of the French, was forc'd to surrender fooner than was expected.

After the taking of Limburgh, the King of France encamp'd near Tillemont, wasting all the Country about Lovain, Brussels and Malines, and fain he would have been at Lovain it self, but that his Highness, together with the Duke of Villa Hermosa, watch'd him so narrowly, that he would

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not venture to meddle with it. So that seeing there was no more good to be done, contented with his Atcheivment of Limburgh, he return'd to Paris, leaving Conde to attend the Prince's Moti-

ons, as the Prince had attended upon his.

And indeed those two wary Generals watch'd one another so well, that neither could get any Advantage of the other. But Conde was soon after commanded into Assaira upon the Loss of Turenne. And now the Prince had to do with a new General, the Army being left to the Command of the Count de Montmorency. Who, though a Captain no less wary than his Predecessor, yet his Highness had this Advantage of him, that he kept him from disturbing the Leaguer before Treves, so that at length, that City, after the satal and utter Overthrow of Monsieur Crequi, fell into

the Hands of the Imperialists.

It may be wonder'd that his Highness and Monsieur de Montmorency should lye so near together, almost within View one of another, and yet no more considerable Action pass between But Montmorency well knew that France had already receiv'd two deep Wounds, by the Loss of her choicest General, and Crequi's Army, and therefore was unwilling to hazard a Third, that perhaps might prove more mortal. Which was the reason that he suffer'd Binck to surrender to his Highness at Discretion, a Garrison of three hundred and fifty Men, and a great quantity of Provision, almost in view of his Army. The Fortifications of which, his Highness afterwards caus'd to be undermin'd and blown up, to render it unserviceable to the Enemy. But it appear'd afterwards, that

that Monthiorency had no Orders to give his Highness Battle; and therefore, though upon the Approach of ten thousand of the French Cavalry, as his Highness had reason to suspect, with an Intention to attack his Rear-guard, he had drawn up his Army in a large Plain, where it was easie to have come to a fair and equal Encounter, the wary Marshal would not advance, but retreated without making the least Attempt; so that his Highness sinding the time of the Year far spent, broke up his Army and return'd to the Hugue.

1676.

O dreadful and so innumerable were the Miseries and Calamities of War, that now for some years together had harrass'd and depopulated the greatest part of Europe, that several Princes began not only to compassionate her Miseries, but made it their Business to study the most proper means, and most probable, to put a stop to the rapid Violence of inceffant Misfortunes, under which, the afflicted People daily languish'd. However little Progress could be made in so glorious a Work, and so beneficial for the Common Good. of Christendom; till at length his Majesty of Great Britain, Charles the Second, having concluded a Peace with Holland, shew'd himself no less zealous to extinguish the General Conflagration, and to procure an univerfal Peace amongst all the Christian Princes, which Europe so much wanted. To which purpose, taking upon him the noble and high Office of a Mediator, there was nothing which

he omitted, no Stone that he left unturn'd, to induce others to follow his Example. Many were the Obstructions, and many the Delays of State Punctilios, that for some time retarded his Delign. But fuch was his Royal Care and indefatigable Diligence in removing those Obstacles, and giving Satisfaction to the discording Interest, that finding no way well to refuse the Mediation of so great a Monarch, upon whose Justice and Prudence they had no less reason to rely; all the contending Parties agreed to submit to his Umpirage; and Nimeghen being the Place agreed upon for the Treaty, thither the Plenipotentiories began, toward the beginning of this year, to repair from all Parts, as to the general Rendesvouz of Peace. So that War and Peace might seem to have vouchsafed each other now an Interview, and to be at a kind of Civil Strife which should get the upper Hand.

However, in regard all Parties stood for Honourable Terms, the Preparations for War were carry'd on with no less Vigor against the Spring, then if no such thing as Peace had been in agita-So that his Highness the Prince of Orange had Winter Employment enough to get his Army ready against the Spring. For it was easie to see that there would need a powerful Opposition against the Common Enemy, so soon as the Season serv'd. And indeed before the middle of April the French began to form considerable Musters under Marshal Crequi near Charleville; and Marshal d'Humieres, having got together a Body of fifteen thousand Men near Courtray, took the Field, with a defign to have fallen into the Country of Waes:

Waes; but being repuls'd from thence, he forc'd his Way into that of Alost, and put all the Inhabitants under Contribution, the Spaniards being too weak to resist him.

This hasten'd his Highness the Prince of Orange's March from Rosendael to joyn the Duke of Villa Hermosa, which he did at Cambron the twenty fixth of April. But before this, Marshal Crequy had surrounded Conde with an Army of sixteen thousand Men. Upon the News of which, the King of France hasten'd from Paris, follow'd soon after by the Duke of Orleans, and bringing with him a Reinforcement of ten thousand Men; the Town was so furiously batter'd and storm'd on every side, that the Garison was forc'd to surrender at discretion, not able to hold out against so powerful an Affailant, notwithstanding that his Highness was march'd as far as Granville toward their Relief. But there understanding that the Town was taken, he made a Halt; and directing his March towards Mons, posted himself not far from Espinliers, while the Duke of Villa Hermosa lay at Nemy, to observe the Motion of the Enemy. The King of France having given Order for repairing the Fortifications of Conde, and put a Garison of three thousand Men into the Place, order'd the Duke of Orleans, with the Forces under Marshal Crequi, which were about sixteen thousan Men, to besiege Bonchaine, a small, but strong Town, seated between Cambray and Valenciennes, and which guarding the Communication between those two Places, for thatreason, was furnished with a good Garison, under the Command of a Governour who had the Repute

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of a stout and able Souldier. Nevertheless, the Siege of this Place was no such difficult Task for the Duke with such a Force, in regard he lay secur'd by the King himself in Person, who had undertaken with his main Body, to keep the Dutch

and Spanish Armies all the while in play.

To this purpose, the King encamp'd himself at Seburgh, between the Hain and the Scheldt, extending his Army as far as Kinerain and Monsipont, to prevent his Highness from getting near Bouchain. Withal, he order'd Marshal d'Humieres to lye with nine thousand Men upon all the Passes over the Scheldt, between Conde and St. Amant, to hinder

any Relief that way.

On the other fide, his Highness, after he had muster'd his Army, which he found to be five and twenty thousand Foot, and fixteen thousand Horse, and receiv'd a Convoy of Provisions from Brussels, which the Count of Montal, with five thousand Horse, being watch'd by the Marquis of Montpouillan, in vain endeavour'd to intercept, decamp'd from Mons, and marching without Beat of Drum or Sound of 'Trumpet, in two long Bodies, the Spaniard on the Right, and the Dutch Army on the Left, with the great Guns and Provision in the middle, encamp'd the next day between Perwez and Basecles, about three Miles from Conde. At the same time his Highness sent the Prince of Vaudemont with a thousand Foot and three thousand Horse, to secure the Passage over the Scheldt near Conde, and withal, commanded the Duke of Holstein to pass by Mons with fifteen hundred Horse and two Regiments of Infantry, to Post himself near Kievrain, on purpose to amuse the French and make them believe that the whole Army was upon their march on that side, while he

might be thought to lead the Vanguard.

Upon this the King apprehending least the Enemy should find a passage on the Scheldt side, to raise the Siege of Bouchain, decampd from Seburgh and Kievraine, and passing the Scheldt near the Abby of Ename, encamp'd his Army in view of Valenciennes, where Marshal d' Humieres, also joyn'd him after he had quitted his post upon the Scheldt.

In the mean time his Highness, having Intelligence that the French delign'd to possess themselves of a Hill, that lay near to Valenciennes, pass'd the Scheldt about a League below Conde, march'd with all haste on the side of Valenciennes, and having made himself Master of the Hill, by ten of the clock in the Morning, immediately rang'd his whole Army in Battle array, which the King of France perceiving did the like. French had the Wood of St. Amant upon their Left Wing; and the Confederates upon their Right Wing the Wood of Vicogne, where they posted Three Thousand Foot to secure themselves on that side. And now, there being nothing but a large Plain between both Armies, it was generally expected that a Battle would have enfu'd. In order to which his Highness shew'd himself at the Head of every Regiment, enlivining to that degree the courage of the Souldiery, that they threw up their Caps, and with loud Acclamations testifyed their eager desires to engage the Enemy. But the both Armies had stood thus drawn up all that Evening and the next day, the French forbore to K 4 advance;

advance; so that the Prince of Orange having encamp'd his Army to avoid surprises, was resolv'd himself the next day to have attack'd the King, while a Detachment of Twelve Thousand Menendeavour'd to relieve the Town; but understanding in the mean time that the Place was taken, he alter'd his Resolution. Nevertheless both Armys still lay in view one of another near Valenciennes, nor would his Highness stir, till the King of France after he had wrote to Paris the great News of his Conquest of Bouchain, first decamp'd, leaving to the Prince the Honour to have dar'd the whole Power and Fortune of France; so that if the Confederates lost a small Town, the French lost the greater Honour of accepting so brave a Chal-

lenge.

No sooner was the King of France decamp'd, but his Highness follow'd him at the heels; and understanding by his Quartering between Gramont and Nivove, that the King's design was to fall into the Province of Alost; his Highness sent Antonio d'Agurto with a confiderable number of Horse and Dragoons to secure all the Passes and Bridges upon the River Dender, which they did in view of the French; by which means his Highness having secur'd those Parts, the King return'd back to Kievrain, which he order'd likewise to be fortify'd, as if he had had a design upon Valenciennes. which the Prince brought his Army to Lombeek and Wambeek not far from Bruffels to attend the Kings Motion. In which posture both Armies lay till the beginning of July without any considerable Action. But then the King of France returning for Paris, after he had given the Command of his Army in the

he Spanish Netherlands to Marshal Schombergh, His Highness the Prince of Orange sate down before Maestricht. On the other side Schombergh by way of diversion sends away the Marshal d' Humiers. with Fifteen Thousand Men to lay Siege to Aire. a City seated in the Province of Artoys, and very strong as being environ'd on three sides with a deep Marsh. So that there was no way but one to come at it, which was defended by a strong Fort, fortify'd with no less then five Bastions and a Mote. This Fort d' Humiers easily made himself Master of, the Commander within, not having Men sufficient to oppose the French Numbers; after which he ply'd the Town so thick with his Bombs and Granados, that the Houses taking fire and the Townsmen growing impatient of their Losses, beat a Parley before the Governor knew of it and constrain'd him to Surrender the Town, upon fuch Articles as they had confented to; which were so much the more to their Advantage, in regard that they heard the Duke of Villa Hermofa, was upon his March to raise the Seige.

All this while the Prince of Orange had lain before Maestricht, which was begirt on every side as well by his own, as the Consederate Forces of the Prince of Osnaburgh, and some few Troops of the Elector of Brandenburgh and Duke of Newburgh, &c. To every one of which when His Highness had assign'd their quarters, he took up his own at Smeermaes on Ruremond side. Among the rest, the English under three Collonels, Fenwick, Widdrington and Ashley to the number of Two Thousand Six Hundred Men, besides Volunteers and Reform'd Officers, presented a Petition to his Highness, wherein

they belought him, That all of their Nation might be assigned a particular Quarter, and be commanded apart, that if they behav'd themselves like Men they might have the Honour due to their Atchievements; but if ill, that they might bear alone the Ignominy of their Comardise; there being no reason why they should suffer for the miscarriage of Others. This Petition was readily granted by his Highness, who thereupon order'd the English a separate Post, over against his own Regiment of Guards, on that side next Bois le Duke Gate, under the command of Collonel Fenwick, as being the eldest Collonel; nor were they worse than their words, as appear'd by many desperate Attacks wherein they signalized themselves with more then

usual Valour, during the Siege.

And indeed never was any Siege carry'd on against a stout Defence with more Vigor and Resolution, his Highness continually animating the Soldiers by his Presence, and teaching them contempt of danger by exposing his own Person to that degree, that he received one day a flight wound in his Arm, at what time the Besieg'd thinking to have ruin'd his Works, were repuls'd by the Regiment then upon the Guard. So that if the Succels of the Siege had depended upon the indefatigable diligence, the undaunted courage and more then credible vigilancy of the Prince, his Highness could not have fail'd of success in his Enterprize. there were two reason's wherefore his Highness could not make himself Master of the Town so soon as otherwise he might have done; for first the River was grown so shallow, that he was forc'd to stay some days for his great Guns from Ruremond for want of water. In the next place, the Forces which

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which he expected from the Bilhop of Munster and Dukes of Luneburgh, never came to his Affistance. Marshal Schombergh therefore, having receiv'd poficive Orders to relieve the Place, and being now advanc'd to that purpose as far as Tongres, his Highness call'd a Council of War, to consider what was to be done, as the state of his Affairs stood. At what time, after they had debated the condition of the Army, which was not above four and twenty thoufand at the first opening of the Trenches, now much leffen'd, but more wearyed and tyred out by continual labour and watching; that it would be impossible so to stop up the Passages and Avenues to the Town, on the Wyck fide, but that the French would put relief into the place, do what they could, besides that it was impossible for the Horse to subsist in the Trenches for want of Forage, They concludedto raise the Siege. To which purpose, his Highness order'd the Horse to joyn Count Waldeck, and sent away his great Guns, Provision and Ammunition, with his fick and wounded Men, by Water to Ruremond, standing himself with his Foot drawn up in Battle array, till the Boats were out of danger, and then marched to Loenaken, where he encamp'd with his whole Army; to try whether the French would yet in the heat of their success, hazard the Fortune of a Battle. But the Marshal, well fatisfy'd with his having reliev'd the Town, avoided any farther Action; so that his Highness drew off from Loenaken, and marched to St. Tron; where he gave leave to the Three English Regiments and Nine of the Dutch, who had most suffered during the Siege, to return into Holland and recruit their Losses.

From thence his Highness directed his March toward Janche and Pertuise, the Duke of Villa Hermosa leading the Van, the Duke of Osnaburgh, the main Battle, and his Highness the Rear-guard. Thereupon Schombergh follow'd them as far as Warem, thinking to have done some execution upon their Rear; upon which, the Confederates drew up upon a Rising Ground between Janche and Pertuise, believing that at length the French were coming on to give them Battle. But being deceiv'd in their hopes, his Highness march'd back to Warem; where now deeming the Campaign to be at an end for this year, he left the Army under the Command of Count Waldeck, and return'd for Hol-Where first in the General Assembly of the States, he gave an Account of the Summers Expedition, so much to their Lordship's satisfaction, that the President solemnly congratulated his safe return, and return'd him thanks of the whole Affembly for the great Pains and Toyl which he had undergone for the good of the Republic; and afterwards repeating the same Accompt in the Affembly of the States of Holland, the Pensioner Fazel made him new returns of thanks for exposing his Person to so many hardships and dangers for Preservation of the Provinces, for which they could not but acknowledg themselves eternally oblig'd to his Care and Conduct.

1677.

HE Campaign being thus ended, all Men were now in great hopes of Peace: and they who were most desirous of it, were willing to draw Reasons for the necessity of a general Composure, from the Condition of the Potentates of Europe at that time, whom they concluded to be all alike, so wearied and exhausted with the continual Depredations and Expences of a long War, that they would be readily inclin'd to take Breath. But besides that the secret Springs that move the bulky Macheens of Kingdoms and States, never discover themselves withoutside the Frame, we generally find that it is more easy to kindle then to quench a Conflagration, and that Swords once drawn by several particular Interests, besides the general Motive, are not so soon sheath'd again. It required more then one Winter to regulate all the Preliminaries of the Grand Assembly at Nimmeghen. So that notwithstanding all the serious pains which his Majesty of Great Britain took, there was little hopes of Peace, before the next Spring. At what time the Loofers would be forc'd to stir, and the Winners confiding in Fortunes favours, would be fure not to lye Idle.

Nor were these Conjectures in vain: for no sooner was the New Year begun, tho it were the depth of Winter, but the French Forces were upon their March towards the Spanish Netherlands; and in a short time all the Important places round about Valenciennes, Cambray and St. Omers, were so throng'd

throng'd with the French Troops, that those three Citys were in a manner blockt up at a distance. Nor were the French afraid to give it out, that they would be Masters of two, if not more Places of Importance, before their Enemies could be in a Condition to take the Field. On provided ward

And here it was easie to observe the great advantage that Men who being all under the Command of one Chieftain, are govern'd by his single and immediate Orders, have overshole who acting in Contederacy, meet with a thousand delays of differing Counsels, temper of Nations, negligence or impoverilled Alliance; while the single Person that has Power, has nothing to impede his determinations, but his lown will.

The King of France, therefore having once fix'd his Resolutions, which were to add to his Conquests in the Spraish Neitherlands, hasten'd thither all his Forces as to their Center, with 6 much speed, that by the first of Marchhe had environ'd Valenciennes with an Army of between Fifty and and Sixty Thousand many under the Command of the Duke of Luxambergh, and the Count of Montal, and four days after arrived himself in person at the Campi only and ward

Valenciennes is a large and fair City founded as they fay, by the Emperor Valentinian for the fake of the Air, and the fertility of the Soil. It is feated in the Province of Hainaulo upon the Scholdt, which runs through it together with the little River Rouel, which gives it the advantage of drowning the Country upon one fide of it : fo well fortify'd belides, that formenly it was thought im-

pregnable.

Within

Within the City was a Garrison of two thoufand Foot, Spaniards, Walloons and Italians; with about a Thousand Horse and Dragoons, under the Command of the Marquiss of Resburgh, Bro-

ther to the Prince of Espinoy.

The King of France being arriv'd at the Camp. visited the several Posts, viewd the City, and gave Orders where to open the Trenches, and raise the Batteries; which were brought to that perfection in a few days, that the French were advanc'd to the Glacis or flooping of the Counterscarp of a Crown'd Horn-work, which was one of the main Defences of the City. But then the King, unwilling to loose time in a Methodical way of taking the Out-works, gave Orders to storm the Horn-work in four several Places at once, in the Morning by eight of the Clock; and to facilitate the Assault, commanded that the Besieged should be kept waking all the Night before by flinging Bombs, Granado's and Fire Pots into the Town; which had the desir'd effect. For the next Morning the Besieged being tyr'd out with the Night's toyl were gone to their Repole, leaving very few to guard the Works. So that the Assailants carry'd all before them, won the Counterscarp and Horn-work, and turned the great Guns upon the Town; which put the Besieged into such a Terror, that they surrenderd immediately at discretion, and the French became Masters of the Town, almost before the were aware with very little loss, and none of any Quality except the Count of Bourlemont. At the same time the King perceiving the French and Swifs Colours upon the Ramparts, gallopp'd up toward the Town, and gave

gave strict Command to forbear pillaging or doing any other injury to the Inhabitants. But another chief reason that the City was so suddainly taken was this, that the Marquiss of Risburgh was wounded at the beginning of the Seige, so that he was forc'd to keep his Bed. Which was the Reason that the King gave him his Liberty to go to Brussels, there to make his Justification. The rest to the Number of between two and three Thousand were all made Prisoners of War.

The King having thus won Valenciennes, immediately sate down before Cambray, with one Part of his Army, commanded by the Duke of Luxemburgh, and begirt St. Omers with the other Part, under the Leading of Marshal d' Humieres.

Cambray is one of the most ancient Citys of the Low Countries, Founded in the time of Servius Hostilius, but the Castle was built by Charles the Fifth: So that the Spaniards have always had a very great care to preserve it. This was the first place that Cludoreus King of France, Conquer'd after the loss of three and fifty Thousand men on both sides, It is a Town of great Trade for fine Linnen Cloath; and had been in the Spaniards hands above fourscore Years. There was in it a good Garrison of one thousand four hundred Horse, and four Regiments of Foot, besides two Tertias of Veteran Spaniards, under the Command of Don Pedro de Zavala the Governor. Thus both sides prepared for Defence and Offence; but the Church was a Pile of so much Veneration, that the Chanons coming forth of the Town, made their Address to the King, and befought him not to level any Shot against

against their Cathedral. Which being readily condescended to, no sooner were the Lines of Circumvallation and Countervallation finish'd, but the King gave order for the Storming two Half Moons on the Castle side; of which the numerous French having soon made themselves the Masters, presently began to undermine the Ramparts. Which put the Besieged into such a Consternation, that they beat a Parley, and soon after Surrender'd the Town, upon honourable Articles; the Churchmen making their Capitulations

a part.

But though the Town were thus taken the Castle still held out; whither the Governour, taking the Advantage of the Cessation of Arms, had in the mean time given order for the Canon, and fuch Ammunition as he thought necessary, to be remov'd. He also caus'd all the Horses belonging to the Cavalry to be kill'd, excepting ten for every Troop, and so retreated to the Castle with all his Souldiers, before the French had Notice of it, resolving the French should pay dearer for the Citadel, then they had done for the Town. So that the King was forc'd as it were to lay two Sieges to one Place. Nor was the Castle so easily nor so suddainly taken as the Town. For while the King was about to make his approaches with his wonted speed, he was Constrained to stop for sometime, in regard that not only the French Pioneers were driven from their works by the Besieged, in a Salley which they made to prevent their approaches, at what time the Count d'Auvergne was wounded in the Head, and the Commissary of the French Artillery kill'd with a Canon Bullet

Bullet; but also, for that the King, upon advice that the Prince of Orange was upon his March to the Releif of St. Omers, was constrain'd to send away the Duke of Luxemburgh with a great part of his Army to reinforce his Brother the Duke of Orleance, who then lay before the Town, and had already begunhis Batteries.

For the news of the King of Frances great Succeffes at Valenciennes and Cambray, and his Progress at St. Omers had so alarum'd all the Netherlands, that his Highness the Prince of Orange was compell'd to take the Field, perhaps sooner then he intended, considering the greatness and Danger of the Enterprise which requir'd so much speed before the rest of the Allyes could be ready. To that purpose having Rendevouz'd his Army near Tpre, confifting cheifly of the Holland Forces, and some few Troops drawn out of the Spanish Garrisons, he fer forward upon the seventh of April, and the ninth arriv'd at St. Mary Capelle, when he understood that the Duke of Orleance had drawn off the greatest part of his Army, (leaving only some few Regiments for the Guard of his Trenches, and to keep the Town as it were block't up) and was encamp'd directly in the Road to St. Omers. However the Prince refolv'd to continue his march, which was very troublesome, by reason of the many Lane's in his way, fo that he could not advance any farther all the next day, then to a small River call'd Pene, on the other side of which he perceiv'd the Enemy. Thereupon he confulted his Guides, and fuch as pretended very well to know the Country, who all affur'd him that there

there was no other passage to Bacq, which was adjudg'd the only Place by which relief might be put into St. Omers. And that was the reason that he resolv'd to pass the River and attaque the Enemy. To which purpose, he caus'd new Bridges to be made and the old ones which the Enemy had broken to be repair'd in the Night time, and by break of day cross'd the River with that speed, that his whole Army was got over before the French perceiv'd it. But then nothing fo much perplex'd the Prince, as to find there was yet another River, between the Enemy and him, contrary to what his Guides had inform'd him. So that all his care was how to pass the second River in view of the Enemy so nigh at hand, and all drawn up ready to give Battle. However he made himself Master of the Abby of Pienes, on the other side of the River, and lodg'd his own Regiment of Dragoons therein, thinking to have pass'd the River on the right hand. But the ground was so intercut with Dikes and Hedges on that side, that he was disappointed that way. Nevertheless the Enemy having receiv'd a reinforcement of fifteen thousand Men, gave him occasion themselves to come to blows with them, by quitting an advantageous post to attack the Abbey; where the Dragoons made a stout and long refistance, and at length being reinforc'd with some Battalions of Foot, constrain'd the Enemy to retreat. After which the Prince drew off his Dragoons, and set fire to the Abbey, to prevent the French from taking possession of it. In the mean time the French wheel'd off their Right Wing, to charge in Flank the Princes Left Wing, which lay fecur'd

cur'd by several Hedges, where were posted two Battalions of Foot. At what time the Prince obferving the Enemy to be reinforc'd on that side with Fresh Numbers, sent three Battalions more to the Affistance of his own, and to Guard the Plain behind the Hedges. But the two first Regiments shamefully quitted their Post, so soon as the Enemy drew near, so that the other three Regiments not having time to put themselves in a Posture of defence, they saw the first Regiments fly, they likewise gave Ground, and disorder'd the Squadrons that lay there ready to Releive them. Upon which the Enemies Cavalry advancing, and being seconded by their Foot, put the Princes Horse also to a Retreat; though not far. For being immediately rally'd again they fell on with fresh Courage, and in their turn repell'd the French: but then the French Infantry advancing, made themselves Masters of the Hedges where the Princes Men were posted before; so that his Highness perceving, that if his Men were charg'd both in Flank and Front at one time, they could not be able to make any long refistance against an Army still reliev'd with fresh supplies drew off his Forces in good order, repass'd the River and retreated to Sceenword and thence to Poperdingue, the Enemy having had fuch bad entertainment from the Princes Right Wing, commanded by Count Walder, that they had no defire to pursue: and this was the Issue of the Battle of Cassel.

But certain it is, that the French were much more numerous, then they were thought to have been, as having receiv'd the Night before the Fight, a great reinforcement from the Army before

fore Cambray; so that by the report of the French Prisoners, the Prince that day withstood no less then thirty nine Battalions of Foot, and a hundred Squadrons of Horse. And as certain it is, that though the loss on the Princes side were very considerable, yet that several Squadrons and Battalions of the French were very courfly handl'd. In so much that they who speak most impartially and modestly of the Fight, scruple not to say that if the Prince's Left Wing had Fought with equal Courage to the Right, and main Battle, the French would have lost much more then they did. But it seems there were in that Wing a new rais'd Regiment of raw Souldiers, who were the occasion that his Highness did not reap that Honour by this Battle which his Prowess and his Conduct deserv'd. For as to himself, all sides agree that he perform'd whatever could be expected from a Prudent, Couragious and daring Leader. It is faid of him, that in the main Battle which he Commanded in Person. he did wonders, leading on his Men at the Head of his Troops to the charge, encouraging them both by his Exhortations and Example, and hazarding himself to that degree in the midst of the Enemy, that he receiv'd no less then two Musket shots in his Armor. Of all which the States General were so sensible, that in Answer to his Letter wherein his Highness gave them an accompt of what had pass'd, they wrote him another, wherein they return'd him their unfeigned thanks for the great care and Indefatigable pains which he took for the Service of his Country, not sparing his own Person, of which they besought him to be more tender for the future, considering how important

the Preservation of his Highness was to the Preservation of his Country. Which if any Sinister accident should happen to his Person, it was to be feared would relaps again into it's former misery and confusion.

Upon the retreat of his Highness, the King of France carry'd on the Siege of the Citadel of Cambray with all the vigour imaginable: and it fell out unluckily for the belieged, that one of the French Bombs lighting into one of the Magazins where they kept their Granado's and other Warlike Ammunition set the whole on fire. Nevertheless they fai'ld not to make a stout defence and recompens'd their loss in some measure with the death of the Marquiss of Renel, one of the Kings Lieutenant Generals, kill'd with a Canon shot from the Castle. But at length the French having made several Breaches in their Works, and the Governour himself being wounded, they were forc'd to submit to the continual Attaques of a numerous Enemy and to furrender upon Honourable Articles.

But as for the Duke of Orleans, notwithstanding his Victory, he was so afraid least the Prince of Orange should make a second Attempt to relieve St. Omers, that he durst not quit the Field, but stood upon his Guard for eight days together before he return'd to the Leaguer. But understanding that his Highness had pass'd the Canal of Gaunt with his Force, he sat down a second time before the Town with his whole Army, and after a vigorous resistance that cost hims the loss of several of his best Officers, at length constrain'd the Besieged, though much against the will of the inhabitants, to surrender upon Articles. After

After the taking of these Towns, the heat of the French fury was over, and they who were so early to offend others were contented all the rest of the Summer to defend themselves, dodging and hovering at the Heels of the Enemy, but not daring though often challeng'd to adventure the

hazard of a pitch't Field.

For by this time on the one side the Prince of Orange had recruited his own Army, and the several Auxiliary supplies sent from the Bishops Munster and Osnabrugh, the Dukes of Zell and Wolfenbuttel, reinforc'd with ten thousand Horse and Foot under the Duke of Villa Hermofa being come up to the Rendevouze near Aloft, they all joyn'd together, and made a Formidable Body. On the other side the Duke of Lorrain being come to Pont a Mouffor with a Powerful Army threatn'd the Invasion of Champaigne. Upon which the King of France return'd to Paris, leaving Crequi to oppose the Duke of Lorrain; and Luxemburgh to observe the motions of the Prince of Orange. Who upon the twenty third of July, dislodging with his whole Army (for the Confederates had all submitted to his Conduct, though the Duke of Villa Hermosa and the Bishop of Osnaburgh were both there in Person) set forward from Alost, to attaque the French then lying under the Walls of Ath. But the Duke of Luxemburgh was so advantageously posted before two small Rivers, that his Highness did not think it convenient to force him in his Fastnesses. However he form'd a volant Camp of between eight and nine thousand Men, to prevent the French from harrasing Flanders on that fide next Brughes and Oftend; and finding he could not not draw the Duke of Luxemburgh to a Battle, he directed his march for Charleroy, and in an instant

beleaguer'd the Town.

Charleroy is a very regular Fortification, begun by the Marquiss of Castel Rodrigo, which the Spaniards had demolished in the Year 1667. but the French repaired it afterwards and made it one of the strongest Holds in all those parts. The Garrison consisted of between four and five thousand Men under the Command of the Count of Montal, a Souldier of great Reputation: and the French mistrusting that his Highness had a design upon the Town, had furnished it with all manner of Ammunition and Provision, and such a number of greatGuns, that the Governour had sent away a good part of them, together with the Women and Children before the Place was invested.

So foon as the Duke of Luxemburgh had Intelligence that his Highness was sat down before the City, he drain'd all the Garrisons of the French Conquests, and having made up a Body of forty thousand Men, decamp'd from Ath, and knowing that the Confederates must have all their Forrage from the Country that lies beyond the Sambre, he posted himself on the other side of the River so advantageously, having a Wood upon his right Wing and a River before him, that there was no forcing his Trenches, Which he did not fo much to raise the Siege, as to weary the Besiegers, who he knew could not subfift without Forrage. All which his Highness considering, and with all that if any disaster should happen by his assailing the French, in regard the Garrison of Charleroy would not fail to seize upon all the Fords and Passages

Passages of the Sambre, contrary to the opinion of the Spanish Generals, he drew off his Army, and retir'd to Sombress: not minding so much the Murmurs of the Spaniards as the preservation of his Army, wherein consisted the safety of his Country; though no Man living, on this side rashness, more daring then he, when he saw there

was any likelihood of prevailing.

His Highness thus observing that the French had no other design but to keep him from laying Siege to any considerable Place; and that he could not draw them to a fair Battle, without which there was no great advantage to be gain'd upon them, drew his Army near to Bruffels, and there leaving it under the Command of Count Waldeck, return'd to the Hague, accompany'd by the Earl of Offory, Don Carlos, the Duke of Albemarle and several others. Where after he had given the States General an Accompt of the Campaign, and the reasons that oblig'd him to quit the Siege of Charleroy, and to decline giving Battle to an Enemy so strongly Posted, their Lordships return'd him thanks a second time for his wary and Prudent Conduct, and befought the continuance of his Care and Zeal for the common Interest.

Nor was it long after the return of his Highness, before the occasion was made public that brought those English Nobility to the Prince's Court. For at a meeting of the States General on purpose assembl'd he gave them to understand, that his Uncle, his Majesty of Great Britain, Charles the II. had earnestly invited him into England, in hopes that his presence in those parts would contribute

very much to the Peace then in Negotiation, and be otherwise advantageous to the States: offering them with all whatever other Service he could do them for the public good. His Highness took his leave of the States, and of all the rest of the Colledges upon the seventeenth of October, and coming to Helverssuys, attended by the Earl of Offery, Mr. Odyck, the Count of Nassaw and several others which made up a numerous and Princely Train, there took Shipping in one of the King's Tacht's; of which there were four, together with three Men of War that lay ready to attend him, while Admiral Evertsen was ordered to wait upon him with several of the Dutch Ships that lay at the Texel, and Landed the nineteenth by ten a Clock in the Morning at Harwich; where the Duke of Albemarle and the Master of the Ceremonies being ready to receive him in his Majesties Coaches Conducted him that Evening to Ipsivich, where he was receiv'd by his Majesty himfelf and his Royal Highness the Duke of York with all the Testimonies of kindness and affection Imaginable. Upon the twenty third the Prince with his Majesty and his Royal Highness arriv'd at White-Hall, where the Lodgings appertaining to his Royal Highness were prepard for his reception; his Royal Highness retiring to St. James's. Upon the Sunday following, the accustom'd Solemnities being pay'd to the Birth day of his Royal Highness, the Princess Mary, Eldest Daughter to the most Illustrious Duke of York, his Majesties only Brother, first appear'd in Public, no less Splendid in Magnificence of Habit, then Charming with the Luster of her Native Beauty. And because

cause the Lord Mayors day was then approaching the Lord Mayor attended by the Aldermen and Sheriffs of London went to White-Hall not only to welcome his Highness into England, but to invite him together with the King and his Royal Highness to the Solemnity of their Feast. Which was then design'd to be more then usually Magnificent, in regard it was then past report, that this Majesty of Great Britain had cast his Eye upon the most Heroic Prince of Orange as the fittest match among all the Princes of Europe, for his most Illustrious Neice, the Presumptive Heiress of three Great Kingdoms: and for that the City was then to entertain all the Supream Grandeur and

Glory of the British Monarchy.

What yet was only Report foon after confirm'd by the King himself, who coming into Council, upon the first of November there declar'd his design of Marrying to the Prince of Orange, the Princess Mary, Eldest Daughter to the Duke of York, who at the same Instant appearing in Council, testify d as well his Confent to the march, as the great affection which he bare the Prince, whose Merits were so highly deferving. Both his Majesty and his Royal Highness at the same time declaring that they hop'd the match would tend to the Confummation of that Peace, of which his Majesty was resolv'd to labour the Accomplishment as far as the Interests of his Kingdoms would permit. Upon which the whole Council went in a Body to Compliment the Princess, and then the Prince himself; as did also after them the rest of the Nobility of the Kingdom; besides that the news being spread into the City fet the Bells a ringing, and kindl'd Bonfires Bonfires in all the high Streets of the City in testi-

mony of public joy and fatisfaction.

Of the Conclusion of this Match, his Highness forthwith gave Notice by a particular Express of which this was the purport. That in consideration they had testified their earnest wishes to see him Marry'd, after often he had well weigh'd the Reasons which induc'd him to it, in Conformity to their desires, and the good of their State, he thought he could not do better, then to make his Addresses to the Princess Mary Eldest Daughter to the Duke of York; that he had requested her in Marriage both of his Majesty of Great Britain, and his Royal Highness her Father, who had condescended to his Proposal; and therefore deem'd it but just to give them notice of it, expecting in return their speedy Approbation, that he might the sooner hasten again to their Service.

Upon this, the States General affembl'd together, and after they had duely weigh'd the Reasons of State upon which the Match was grounded, and the fair Advantages accruing from it, tending to a confirmation of the strict Union between His Majesty of Great Britain and the States of the United Provinces, the Establishment of the ancient House of Orange, and so fairly promising a Conclusion of the folong wish'd for Peace; after they had consider'd all this, and the choice his Highness had made of a Princess, who besides her innate unparallel'd Goodness, was endu'd with all the Vertues desireable in Sacred Wedlock, by a Publick Edict testify'd their Approbation in all the Terms of Satisfa-Ction that words could express; declaring also their high Esteem of so great an Alliance, and protesting their real and sincere Resolutions to observe it to the utmost of their Powers. This

This Answer and Approbation arriving at London the 14th of November, which fell out to be his Highnels's Birth-day, the Marriage was solemniz'd the same day at eleven a clock at night, and that with so little noise, that the People knew nothing of it till the next morning. The Bishop of London perform'd the Ceremony, who when he came to the usual Question, Who gives this Lady? His Majesty answered in Person, I do. So that the next day, being the 5th of November, was a double Holyday among the People, not only upon the usual occasion, but to testify their present joy for the conclusion of so Glorious a Match; from whence they promis'd themselves so much of suture Happiness.

However in the midst of all these Nuptial Joys and Caresses, the Prince well knowing how necessary his Presence was in Holland made all the haste he could to return. So that he departed from London 29th. of November, together with his Princess, and landed at Ter Heyde, from whence they went to Hounslaerdyke, where they staid till they made their publick Entry into the Hague. Which they did in a few days after with a more then ordinary magnificence. For besides that the twelve Companies of the Burghers were in Arms drawn up under their distinct Ensigns, the Bridg of the Hague was adornd with green Garlands, under which were written these Words,

UXORI ET BATAVIS VIVAT NASSOVIUS HECTOR AURIACO ET PATRIÆ VIVAT BRITANNICA PRINCEPS.

Having

Having pass'd the Bridg they were met by four and twenty young Virgins, that walk'd two by two on each side their Highness's Coach, singing and strewing green Herbs all the way. When their Highness came before the Town-House, they past thro a Triumphal Arch adorn'd with Foliage, and Grotesco Work, with the Arms of both their Highnesses, and over them two hands clasp'd together with this Motto,

AURIACI HIS THALAMIS BATAVIS DOS REGIA PAX EST.

From whence crossing over the Market-Place into the Hoogstraet another Triumphal Archstood ready erected to receive them with these Words,

INGREDERE AUSPICIS BATAVIS FOELICIBUS AULAM.

I pass over the Martial Ceremonies of Volleys, Discharges of Cannon, Fire-works the most Exquisite that Art could invent, the Bonsires in the Form of Pyramids and Castles, and other Solemnities, that were at vast Expences bestow'd upon this Nuptial Entrance, as being more proper for a Relation then a History. It suffices that hardly more could have been added to express the Joy of the People, or the satisfaction of the Magistrates.

Nor was it long before these happy Nuptials produc'd Effects answerable to the Promises of so potenta Prince and Mediator, as His Majesty of Great Britain; who as he had design'd them for the

the publick Good of the United Netherlands, the E-stablishment of his Illustrious Nephew's Interests, now enfolded with Theirs, and the Advancement of the Protestant Religion, so was he most industriously as good as his Word. For no sooner was the Year

1678.

BEgun, but the early Winter Preparations of the King of France, Alarum'd all Europe, but more especially the Dutch, and their Allies. Thereupon his Majesty of Great Britain sent the Earl of Feversham, to the King of France, with a Project of Peace, by Vertue of which the Cities of Charleroy, Ath, Oudenard, Courtray, Tournay, Conde. Valenciennes, and St. Guilain, should be restor'd to the Spaniards, in Lieu of which the King of France was to keep la Franche Conte entire to himself. But neither would the King of France agree to this. neither would the King of England remit of his Proposals. So that in this uncertainty of Affairs, His Majesty of Great Britain sends away a Commission to his Embassador the Lord Hyde, then at the Hague, to conclude a strict Alliance between himself and the States General, by which it was among other things agreed, that the King of England and the States General, should mutually affift and defend each other, by fuch ways and means, and with fuch forces as should be agreed upon between them.

That the Cities of Charleroy, Aih, Oudenard, Courtray, Tournay, Conde, Valenciennes and St. Guelain, should be restor'd to the Spaniards, with all such other

other Places of which the French had made them Masters, since the taking of St. Guilain.

That the County of Burgundy should remain

in Possession of the French.

That as to the United Netherlands, that in Europe there should be a Restitution of all things on both sides.

That in consideration of the Alliance between the Emperor and the States, that care should be taken that all things should be adjusted according to Equity and Reason.

That as for the Duke of Lorain his Dukedom

should be restor'd him.

As for the King of Sweden, that there should be a Suspension of Arms till all the Conditions of

Peace were agreed upon.

And lastly, if the King of France should refuse to accept these Conditions, that then the King of Great Britain, and the States should unite their

Forces to Compel him to Reason.

This Alliance thus concluded, his Majesty dispatch'd away the Lord Montague, his Embassador into France, once more to press the Acceptance of of his Proposals, and to give more weight to his demands, began to make new Levies both of Horse and Foot. But the King of France rejected his Propositions, making vast Preparations on all sides for War, but more especially in his New Netherland Conquests. Which constrain'd the King of England to recal his forces out of the French Service; where they were but very coursely us'd, and after they were recall'd, ungratefully sent back without their pay.

His Majesty of Great Britain therefore vigoroufly Profecutes his first Resolutions, and at the Meeting of the Parliament, acquaints them with the Alliance which he had made with Holland, for the public good and repose of Christendom, and with his Determinations to compel the King of France, to that Peace which he had set on foot, and of which himself was now become the sole Mediators: desiring withal supplies of Money necessary for such an Enterprize. In answer to which the Commons address'd themselves to His Majesty, and after they had return'd him their humble thanks for his care of the Protestant Religion by Marrying his Neice to a Protestant Prince, they belought him not to consent to any Condition's of Peace that should put the King of France into a better Condition then he was by the Pyrenean Treaty. To which when the King had return'd an Answer, the Commons after a short debate resolv'd the setting forth a Fleet of Ninety Men of War, and raising a Land Army of twenty nine thousand and feventy Men, and appointed Commissioners to Compute the Charges, which amounted to one hundred fifty seven thousand nine hundred seventy one pounds à Month. But then how to raise this Money was a debate too tedious for the swiftness of the King of France's Motions.

However thus far his Majesty had proceeded; before the Allies had made any Progress but only in Conferences with what Numbers, and in what Places to oppose the French, who like a Black-Thunder-Cloud began to hover already over the Spanish Netherlands. And which was worse when they came to a Conclusion what Number of Men

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was necessary, and that the States Deputies offer'd their thirty thousand Men, to joyn with ten thousand Spaniards ready rais'd; unless it were the Bishop of Munster, that offer'd about nine thousand Horse and Foot, there was not any one of all the rest of the Deputies but what reply'd, they had no Orders to confer either about the time of Rendevouze or Number of Men. So that the Prince of Orange with the Dutch and Spanish Forces, was still constrain'd to bear the first Brunts, and those always the most impetuous of the Prench Fury: and to look on with regret to see those Lawrels ravish'd from his Brows which else he might have won, but for the disappointment of Confederate

Friendship.

All this the King of France well knew, and therefore he made early hast to do his Business, before a flow Enemy, either for want of active Resolution, or Money, was ready to oppose him. To that end he set forward from Paris the seventh of February, and by the first of March sate down before Gaunt, the Capital City of Flanders, with an Army of between three and four score thousand Men. Nor was it possible for a Town of so large a Circuit, to defend it self with no more then a Garison of four or five hundred Souldiers, besides the Inhabitants, against the fury of a Prince, who valu'd the winning of a Half-moon beyond the Loss of a thousand Men, and who fearless of Disturbance, gave them no Rest by Day or Night; but with incessant Batteries and Stormings, tir'd out their feeble Strength. Gaunt therefore being forc'd to surrender within nine days after it was besieg'd, the victorious Enemy fell upon Ypre with the fame

same rapid Violence; but in regard this Town was stronger then Gaunt, and furnish'd with a better Garison, the Besiegers found so stout a Resistance there, and lost so many Officers and Souldiers before they took it, that the King of France, whether it were that he found his Army sufficiently tir'd by these two Sieges, or that he thought that by going thus far he had brought his Enemies into a Condition low enough to accept of his own Terms of accommodation, or whether he fear'd the growing Numbers of the English, he sent the greatest part of his Army into Garrisons to refresh themselves, and return'd to Paris.

For by this time the Duke of Monmouth was got to Bruges, with near three thousand Horse and Foot, which the King of Great Britain had sent to re-inforce the Holland and Spanish Army, and the Parliament then sitting, were so eager in the Prosecution of the French War, that they be-sought him to declare open Hostility, promising his Majesty withal, to stand by him with their Lives and Fortunes, and to assist him from time to time with such Subsidies and other Levies of Money as the Importance of such a Royal Defign should require.

During these Transactions, it was astonishing News to hear that the King of France had totally quitted Messina and all Sicily. And the more penetrating Politicians were now of Opinion, that there would be no hopes of Peace on this side Europe, as believing that the King of France had abandon'd his Conquests in those remote Parts, as he had done before his Acquists in the

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United Netherlands, to the end he might the better be enabl'd to turn all his Forces upon the Low Countries, the King of Spain and the Emperor. Tho others look'd upon it, as an Argument that the King of France was not so strong as he boasted himself to be, and that he did it rather out of Necessity, then in compliance to his own De-

figns.

However it were, it created a strong Suspicion in the Parliament, that the King of France refolv'd to continue the War in Germany and the Netherlands, and to make himself a more potent Neighbour then they desir'd he should be. So that they finish'd the Pole-money Bill, and in the same Act, forbid the Importation of French Goods into England. His Majesty of Great Britain also was desirous at the same time to have enter'd into a Quadruple Alliance with the Emperor, the King of Spain, and the States General, that there should have been the same Prohibition of the Importation of French Goods into any of their Dominions, as he had made in Reference to his own Kingdoms, which was the only reason that he forbore to proclaim the fo much defir'd Rupture with France, till those two things were concluded. But while the Hollanders boggl'd at the last Point, as believing such a Prohibition would cause an utter Decay of their Trade, an unlucky Accident chang'd the whole Face of Affairs.

For the King of France being return'd to France, and finding the King of Great Britain to resolute in the Interests of his Nephew the Prince of Orange, more especially since the Prince's Voyage into England, and Marriage of his Neece;

in Favour of whom, it was strongly reported, that his Royal Highness the Duke of York himself, was preparing to pass over into Flanders to Head the English, (if not the whole Confederate Army in those Parts) formed a Project of Peace himself, and sent it to his Ambassadors at Nimmeghen, to be delivered to the Ambassadors and Mediators of the Allies, by the Hands of the English Mediators.

The chief of these Proposals were, that the King of Swedeland and the Duke of Gotorp should

be entirely fatisfy'd.

That the Prince and Bishop of Strasburgh should be restor'd to all his Territories, Goods, Honours and Prerogatives; and that his Brother, Prince William of Fustenburgh, should be set at

Liberty.

As to the Emperor, that he would alter nothing from the public Declarations he had already made, which were still to insist upon the Treaties of Westphalia. Only he offer'd, either to keep Friburgh and restore Philipsburgh, or to keep

Philipsburgh and restore Friburgh.

As for Spain, he was content to restore Charleroy, Aeth, Oudenard, Courtray, Gaunt, and St. Guilaine with their several Dependencies and Chastelrainies. In lieu of which, he demanded Franche Conte entire, Valenciennes, Bonchain, Conde, Cambray, Aire and St. Omers with their Dependencies, and Castleships; and in a Word, all those Places, of which he was Master, except those before excepted.

Moreover, that he was willing to restore Charlemont or Dinant to the Catholic King, provided he could procure the Bishop of Liege's and

the Emperor's Consent.

That

That the Confines between Spain and the Low Countries, to begin from the Sea, should be the Meuse, Newport, Dixmude, Courtray, Oudenard, Aeth, Mons, Charleroy and Namur. And these Bounds to be assured by those Places, the Fortifications of which had cost him Millions, and by the parting with which, he deprived himself of those Advantages which he possessed, even to the Gates of Brussels.

As to the States General, besides the Satisfaction given them by the Articles relating to Spain, that he was content to restore them Maestricht, and to grant them the Treaty of Commerce in the same manner as it had been already settled.

As to the Duke of Lorrain, that he was willing to restore him, either according to the Pyrenean Treaty, or else to surrender to him all his Territories, excepting Nancy: in lieu of which, he would give him the City of Toule, reserving to himself a free Passage into Assaia, and from France to Nancy, so to Mets, Brisac, and Franche Conte.

These Proposals were pleasing to some, but utterly by others dislik'd; for as to the Interest of the States, they had no reason to reject them; but the Ministers of the Allyes being conferr'd with at the Hague, absolutely refus'd them as unjust and unreasonable, in regard that the King of France demanded entire satisfaction for his own Allies, but deny'd it to those of the other Side. But the King of France demanding a positive Answer before the tenth of May ensuing; the Prince of Orange was sent for to be present at the General

General Assembly of the States, where after a long Debate, because the Ministers of the Allies excus'd their Compliance, by reason of the shortness of the Time prefix'd, Monsieur Beverning was sent back to Nimeghen, to try if he could procure a longer Day for the Allies; while other Ambassadors were dispatch'd to London and Brussels, to incline the Spaniards to an Acceptance of the Propositions

Propositions.

Monsieur de Leide coming into England, was look'd upon with an evil Eye by the House of Commons, as believing that the Hollanders sought to make a hasty and dishonorable Peace with France, and in that Heat, more inflam'd by Jealousies of a Popish Interest at Court, resolv'd that they would give his Majesty no more Money till the Protestant Religion was fully secur'd. Which offended his Majesty to that degree, that

the Parliament was foon after prorogu'd.

On the other side, the Spaniards began to comply with the States, which they were the rather inclin'd to do, perceiving England and Holland agreed, and for that the Condition of their own Affairs grew still worse and worse, by the Loss of the strong Hold of Leeuw, which was unhappily surprized by the French, much about the same time. But nothing induced them more to a Concurrence, then the Return of the King of France to his Army near Brussels, surrounded with two numerous Armies more, one upon the Rhine, and the other between the Samber and the Meuse, which threaten'd nothing but the total Loss of the Spanish Netherlands, should the Dutch make a Peace without them, and stand Neuters during

the whole Course of the remaining War, to which they were already fairly courted by the

King of France.

The Spaniards therefore thus constrain'd to submit to the Necessity of their Assairs, declar'd themselves ready to comply with the Dutch, and with the same Diligence the States General incessantly labour'd to prevail with the rest of the Allies, whose Ministers nevertheless spun out the Time with Memoires and Replies, till at length, the States tir'd out with these Remoras, gave positive Orders to their Ambassadors at Nimeghen, to sign the Treaty. But then they were not a little associated to find that the Plenipotentiaries of France resus'd to set their Hands, upon new Demands of Satisfaction to be given in full to the King of Sweden, before the King of France would

proceed to a final Conclusion.

This created new Difficulties, and occasion'd new Complaints from the States, of the unjust Deallings of the King of France, after so ready a Compliance with his own Proposals. The King returns for Answer, that he was willing to advance as far as St. Quintins, where he would stay six days in Expectation of such Commissioners as they should think fit to send to adjust the Difference. But the States believing they had condescended low enough already, reply'd, that the fending of Commissioners would but be to give his Majesty an unnecessary Trouble to reconcile new Differences after a politive Agreement; that therefore they were ready to Sign, which if his Majesty refus'd to do, nothing more remain'd for them, but to protest their own Innocency, and to lay the

the just Blame upon his Majesty, of the Mischiefs that should afterwards ensue. And withal, they decreed among themselves, the Prince of Orange being present, not to send any more to the King

of France, till the Treaty was sign'd.

The News of this Difference, and of the Refolutions of the Dutch to continue the War, unless the King of France quitted his great Zeal for the Swedes, arriving in England, the Parliament, who before were all for disbanding the Forces rais'd by his Majesty, and laying up the Fleet, now voted the Continuance both of the Forces by Land, and of the Fleet by Sea. His Majesty also sent away some part of his Regiments into Flanders, muster'd the rest in England, in order to a War, made a new League, Offen we and Defensive, with the United Provinces, and both together presix'd a short Time for the King of France to Sign, or declare his farther Intentions.

These round and resolute Proceedings of the King of England, at length put an end to a long and tedious Affair, so that the Treaty between France and Holland, was sign'd upon the eleventh of August, about Midnight. And much better it had been, for the King of France that he had made less use of his refin'd Politicks, which had like to have cost him the loss of all Luxemburghs

Army.

For Mons in Hainault, having been long blockt up by the French, was now reduc'd to great Streights; in so much that His Highness the Prince of Orange, understanding that the Confederates had joyn'd the Holland and Spanish Forces that lay near the Canal of Brussels, departed by Night from

from the Hague the 26th. of July. Upon his coming to the Army, his Highness held a Council of War with the Generals of the Allies, where it was concluded, that they should all dislodge and follow the Duke of Luxemburgh, who directed his March toward Mons, on purpose to prevent

the putting Relief into the City.

With these Resolutions, his Highness set forward at the beginning of August with his whole Army, at what time, he had hardly pass'd through Brussels, but he was met by General Spaen with a Re-inforcement of fix thousand Brandenburghers and Munsterians. Upon Notice of the Prince's March, the French, who had lain for some days at Soignes, quitted their Camp, so that the Confederates lodg'd in the same Place which the Enemy had abandon'd the Day before. From whence, marching toward Rocles, his Highness advanc'd with his Left Wing as far as the Abbey of St. Dennis, where the Duke of Luxemburgh had his Head Quarters, and least expected an Attaque. For it was a Post almost inaccessible, there being no coming at the Enemy, but through Woods and narrow Paths, environ'd with Precipices. With his Right Wing he fac'd Casteau, which the French also possess'd, and which was no less difficult of access then the former. So foon as the Army was embattel'd, his Highness thought it convenient to drive the Enemy from a Hillock, where they had posted themselves to his Disadvantage. Which being soon done, he sent for some great Guns and play'd upon the French that lay somewhat above and upon the one side of a Cloyster near St. Dennis, which the French thought to have

have maintain'd with their Artillery. But it was impossible for them to relist the Fury of the Confederate Dragoons, who drove the Enemy from their Fastness, and made themselves Masters of the Cloister, while Adjutant General Collyer advanc'd toward the Abbey, and seconded by General Delwick, fil'd through the narrow Passages, and sliding down the Precipices with an invincible Courage, drave the Enemy after a vigorous Resistance, within their own Lines. In the midst of which Pel-mel, his Highness, accompany'd by the Duke of Monmouth (who fought all the day by his Side) and animated with Success, with his Eyes sparkling like Fire, cry'd out, To Me, to Me, to encourage the Advance of the Regiments that were to fecond the foremost. There was no sparing of Powder and Bullets on either side; almost all the Regiments of the Left Wing following one another till the Evening, with the same Vigor and Resolution. Count Horn, likewise drew his Cannon nearer, and play'd into the Valley upon the French Battalions, not without confiderable Execution.

From thence his Highness slew to Casteau, which was attack'd by the Spaniards in the Right Wing; where his Highnesse's Foot Regiment of Guards had the Vanguard under the conduct of Count Solmes; being who seconded by the Regiments of Roque Sereres, Holstein, and the English through Fire and Flames, after an obstinate Combate, wherein the Regiment of Guards was five hours together engaged with the Enemy, drave them from a Post, which was deem'd impregnable, and pursu'd them a quarter of a League through a Field and down a Precipice, where

where glides the River Haines to the farther side of Casteau.

The Lord of Ossory did wonders with the English, at a little distance from the Guards; where

the French lost abundance of Men.

Nor was there any of the Generals, that did not behave themselves with a Valor equal to that of the ancient Hero's. More especially his Highness, who in the midst of Fire and Smoak, and Bullets slying thick as Hail adventur'd so far, that he had been in eminent danger, had not Mr. De Owerkink oppos'd himself against a daring Captain, that was just ready to charge the Prince full carrere, and lay'd the brisk Assailant dead upon the Spot. All this while the Cavalry were only looking on; by reason the Situation of the Place would not allow the Horse to be serviceable in narrow passages and steep descents. So that the whole Brunt of the Constict lay upon the Infantry and Dragoons.

Night put an end to the bloody Contest, under the favour of which the Duke of Luxemburgh drew off in great silence, and no less confusion, and retreated nearer Mons, to cover himself with a Wood on the one side and a River on the other; leaving to his Highness, as the Marks of certain Victory, the Field of Battle, the greatest part of his wounded Men, several of his Tents, much of his Baggage, and a considerable quantity of Pow-

der and other warlike Ammunition.

The States General upon News of this success, appointed Commissioners to congratulate his Victory, gain'd with so much Reputation and Glory, and to return him thanks for his Provident and Prudent Conduct, and the noble Exploits which

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he had personally perform'd in such an Obstinate Engagement, to the hazard of his Life: befeeching him withal, above all things, to be careful and sparing of his Illustrious Person, considering that in all human probability the Tranquility of of his Country, and the Repose of the Church and Reformed Religion depended upon his fafety. Moreover to shew the high value which they set upon his Preservation, in acknowledgment of Mr. Ouwerkerck's Prowess, who had so valiantly and suecessfully oppos'd himself against the Danger that threaten'd his Highness, they order'd him to be presented with a Sword, the Hilt of which was of Maffie Gold; a Pair of Pistols richly inlay'd with Gold, and a Pair of Horse Buckles of the same Mettel.

His Highness having thus constrain'd the Duke of Luxemburgh to retire, would have certainly pursu'd his Advantages toward the sull Relief of the Town. But while he was consulting what to do, Intelligence was brought to the Army, that the States General and the King of France were agreed. Upon which a Cessation of Arms ensuing, the French Army drew off to the Country between the Samber and the Meuse; and his Highness retreated to Escousines upon the Road to Nivelle, from whence he return'd to the Hague.

The success of this Battle hasten'd also the Signing of the Treaty between France and Spain, which was done upon the Seventeenth of September ensuing. So just was the King of Great Brittain to his Royal Promises; adding to his compassion ate Mediation the Terror of his Arms, and

at the same time equally with both Victorious. As if Peace and the General good of Europe, had been his Neices Dowre, and that the two Important Alliances between the United Provinces and the King of France, and between the King of Spain, and the King of France had been but the descending Influences of the Conjugal Alliance between his Highness and the Princess Mary of England; which had engaged his Majesty of Great Britain to lend his Affisting hand to curb the growing Power of the French Monarch.

The War being thus concluded between France and the United Netherlands, His Highness had now leasure to repose himself after the Toyls and Hardships of the preceeding Campagns. For after the Ratification of the League, and the surrender of Maestricht back to the States, the King of France gave no farther trouble by force of Arms, to the particular Territories of the Low Countries. So that after his Highness the Prince of Orange had taken care to reform the Innovations of the French, and to settle the Affairs of that Garrison, all things began to look with a new Face of quiet and tranquility.

But fresh Dissentions kindling between the Kings of Spain and France, upon certain Pretentions which the King made to Oudenburgh de Gand, the City and Castle of Aelst, with their Dependencies. The Citys of Gramount, Ninove and Rudershove, the Country of Beveren; the Baliages of Assende, Bouchaine, Weert, Heerbring, Opdorp, Moort-selle, St. Amand; and the Countrys of Bornheim, Flobeek and Lessines; and these demands being infisted upon by the King of France with that Rigor,

Rigor, that in stead of remitting in the least, he had given order to Marshal Crequi to block up Luxemburgh, and not to let any Provision be carry'd into the City, on purpose to force the Spaniards, it was not thought reasonable either by his Highness or the States General, to look on as Neuters in such a dangerous Conjuncture. For on the one side they were asraid, least a Rupture between those two Crowns might engage them in a new War: on the other side, though they should remain'd without disturbance, yet they should remain'd without disturbance, yet they should remain'd without disturbance, yet they should remain'd, then to have so formidable a Neighbour as the French, always hovering over their Frontiers.

Thereupon, at the Instance of the Spaniards themselves, who made their Applications both to them, as also to the King of Great Britain, in regard the Conference of the French and Spanish Commissioners at Contray came to no effect, the Stat General made it their business, to employ the chiefest of their Counsels, to compose these differences by way of Amity and Reconciliation. For tho the Spaniards, upon the blocking up of Luxemburgh press'd the States to send the Succor of eight thousand Men, to which they were oblig'd by Articles, in case of any Attacks of the French, contrary to the Peace concluded, yet they rather chose the more quiet and safer method of Mediation.

To this purpose His Majesty of Great Britain, together with the States General by their Ministers at Paris, press'd the King of France to remit some part of his claims; or at least to order his Force

Forces to quit the Blocade of Luxemburgh, till the new-risen differences could be adjusted, To which the King of France reply'd; That he was willing to release all the Claims which he had or could make, to all the places above mention'd, provided the Spaniards in lieu thereof, would surrender up into his hands the City of Luxemburgh, with all the Territorys three Leagues round about it. And this Proposal the King of France propounded to the King of England, for a Ground to proceed to a farther Treaty. Nor did his Majesty of Great Britain, or the States General when it was imparted by his Majesty to their Consideration, think it an unreasonable Proposition; more especially ifat the same time the King of France would forbear any farther Distressing the City of Luxemburgh. All which the States General, after they had advis'd with His Highness the Prince of Orange, thought fit to signifie to the Spanish Ministers and to press their Concurrence.

This Proposal of the Surrender of Luxemburgh, and the Territorys belonging to it being rejected by the Spaniards; the King of France declar'd himself contented to refer all Matters in question to the Umpirage of the King of Great Britain. But neither did this please the jealous Spaniards, who covertly suspected partiality in the King of Great Britain, as being by that time enter'd into an Allyance with France; but openly pretending that England was not in a Condition to undertake a Foreign War, should the French resule to submit to the Arbitration.

This delay of the King of Spain in accepting

the Umpirage of the King of England, was no way pleasing to the King of France; so that he perfix'd a short time for the Spaniard, either to accept the Arbritration or refuse it. Which as it did not a little perplex the States General, who were afraid of the Consequences of new Acts of Hostility, so soon as the time limited should be! expir'd, they came to a Resolution to press the King of Spain to a speedy Acceptance of the Umpirage; and on the other fide they earnestly defir'd his Majesty of Great Britain to take the Arbitration upon him, and to interpose his high Credit and Authority with the two differing Crowns, that all Parties interested might meet, and prepare all Matters ready for his determination.

But then the King of England, being sensible that France would never condescend to any more appointments of Places and Persons which would require a longer time then was convenient for his Advantages, more especially seeing that all the Parties were already met at Frankfort in Order to a general Reconciliation, endeavour'd to throw the Umpirage from himself, as deeming it more proper for the States to undertake; and thus hung the Acceptance of the Arbitration all that year.

Upon this Prospect of suture Troubles that menac'd the Repose of Europe, in regard the Spaniards neglected the Arbitration of England, and for that the States General contrary to the Sentiments of his Majesty of Great Britain, did not think it so conducing to the main, to urge the Spaniards to the Acceptance of it, unless it were done with

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an inclusion of all the Allies, most Men were afraid least after the sifteenth of January was past, which was the time prefix'd for Spain to resolve upon the acceptation or not, the King of France should renew the War against the Spanish Netherlands. The States therefore importunately prest the King of England, by his careful management and the Grandeur of his Credit to prevent all Acts of French Hostility either against the Emperor, the

Empire, or the King of Spain.

To all which the King of Great Britain made Inswer, that he was ready to perform all good Offices between the two Crowns; but that he doubted of fucceeding any other wife then by advising the Acceptance of the Arbitration, and hastning the Empire to a speedy Accommodation. Nay, the King himself did not refrain from intimating to the Embassadours the Intelligence which he had, that the States themselves had diffwaded the Spaniard from Acceptance of the Arbitriment. Which the Embassadors excus'd, by telling his Majesty, that what the States had done, was not by reason they were averse to his Majesty's Umpirage, but to prevent any jealoufy which the King of Spain and the rest of the Allies might conceive of them, as if the States had no defire to fulfill their Treaties and Alliances, but fought to make use of this pretence to shake them off: which might cause a General separation of all the Allies, and consequently cause a breach between the Crown of Spain and the United Netherlands, and give an occasion to his Catholic Majesty to deny them his Assistance in case of necessity; their safety depending solely upon their

own and the Forces of their Allies. But all this produc'd no more from the King of England, then that he would do his utmost endeavors, but could promise nothing. However he prevail'd so far with the most Christian King in behalf of the Emperour, that he offer'd a Truce for thirty Years and prolong'd the Term prefix'd for acceptance of the Arbitration, and the refusal of this proposition, till the last of August, without giving any interruption either to the King of Spain or the Emperor: which if others did not, the King of France looks upon in himself as an Act of great Generosity, not to meddle with the Emperor who had now more then enough to do with the Turks.

But though his Truce propos'd for thirty years, was by several of the States of the Empire lookt upon as a reasonable proposal, as seemingly restoring, for so long time at least, a Breathing space of repose and Tranquillity to the Empire; Yet others there were that utterly rejected it, as altogether prejudicial to the Empire; alledging that a Truce of that continuance would only be to give the King a more Stable Footing in the places which he possess'd, and in some measure to confirm a Title to his unjust (as they call'd them) pretentions: more especially unless before hand they came to an Agreement touching the manner and Continuance of the truce. But in regard that after a long debate at Ratisbone, these two points could not be Adjusted, the Progress of this Negotiation advanced but very flow-

All this while the States of Holland no less in cellantly

cessantly labour'd an Accomodation, and to that end propos'd the Hague for the General Rendevouzes of the Negotiators, and press'd the King of Spain so far, that though he had rejected the King of Great Britains Arbitrement, yet he accepted of their good intentions to defire his mediation; and was willing the Hague should be the Place of Conference, provided the Emperour likewise gave his consent. All this was fignify'd to the States Embassadors at London, and they thereupon order'd to press his Majesty to propound his General Mediation to the King of France. Which though the Court of England lookt upon as a thing that would prove altogether unsuccessful, yet the King promis'd to gratify the States in that particular. Nevertheless he could not forbear when the Ministers of the Emperour and Spain next attended him, to let them understand, that it would be far better for them both to accept of the French Proposals and to Surrender Luxemburgh, which woul'd at once put an end to all differences without any farther dispute or delay.

But neither the Emperour nor the King of Spain resolve so soon to take his Advice, and therefore the King of France, to Spur up this Spanish Hesitation, and to compel his Catholic Majesty to do him that Justice which he demanded, toward the latter end of August, being the utmost Limit of the time presix'd, order'd Marshal d'Humieres to enter the Dominions of the King of Spain in the Spanish Netherlands, and to put all the slat Country under Contribution. Who upon receipt of these orders powers into Flanders, Brabant and other Places, with a numerous Body of French, plundering and pil-

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laging all before him, breaking down the Houses of such as deny'd to bring in their Assessments, and conniving at all those other Insolencies which attend on War. This was repayd by the Spanish Garrisons to the French in the same coyn and more particularly the Prince of Chimai, Governour of Luxemburgh fell into the French Territorys where he us'd the same Violencies and took several Castles. On the other side Marshal d'Humieres lays Siege to Courtray and takes it; and in revenge of Menguin Burnt by the Spaniards, fir'd ten times the value in the Spanish Territories. Upon this the Spaniards lay an Imbargo upon the Goods of all French Inhabitants under their jurisdiction and confiscate their Estates, while the Marshal passing the Canal of Bruges and the Scheldt by the favour of the Ice, lays in Ashes no less then ten or twelve Villages and constrains the rest to compound for their contributions, Moreover to punish the Luxemburgher for the Ravages they had committed in the French Territories, Mareschal Crequi came before the Town with thirty thousand Men, and after he had ruin'd above five hundred Houses with his Bombs retreated to his Winter Quarters.

In the midst of these Devastations the French Embassador makes an Offer to the States from the King of France of Five Equivalents, which being granted he was willing to terminate all the Differences between the two discording Crowns: The first was the Surrender of Luxemburgh: The second was the Resignation of Courtray and Dixmude (leaving however Deynse with it's Dependencies to the Spaniard) the Castlewick of Aeth, Beaumont and

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Bovignes

Bovignes With their Dependencies. The third an Equivalent either in Navarre, or Catalonia. If in Catalonia, he demanded the remainder of the County of Cerdaigne (to which Puycerda belong'd) Surdurgel, Canredon and Castel-Folito with their Dependences: Or Rozez, Gironne, and Cap de Quieres, with their Dependences.

If in Navarre, His Majesty demanded Pampelona and Fontarabia with their Dependences. Upon which Conditions, the King of Spain might chuse

either Peace or War.

But in regard the Spaniards were utterly averse to the quitting of Luxemburgh, and with Scorn rejected the Equivalents of Catalonia and Navarre; insomuch that the Marquiss of Castell Moncayo could not forbear, in his Memoire upon the Proposals to the States, to tax the French Embassador for offering that Equivalent, only to shew that he knew the Names of the most Important Fortresses in the Spanish Dominions; therefore it was, that the Spaniards renew'd their importunate Instances to His Majesty of Great Britain, even to that degree as to expostulate with His Majesty, wherefore he delay'd the Succours which he was oblig'd by Articles to fend to his Allies in diffress. To which the King made Answer, That he wondred His Catholic Majesty should so earnestly press him for Succour at a time when the condition of his Affairs at home would not permit him to undertake a War abroad; however that he was still ready to do the utmost, that his Endeavours could contribute toward the General Peace of Europe, and the particular Service he ow'd His Majesty of Spain.

But no way satisfy'd with this, they repeat their Importunities

Importunities in England, and farther addr est themselves for aid to the States. But all these things serv'd rather to drill out time then to give any affiliance to the Spaniards, who contrary to their own Nature seem'd now to act with more Precipitancy. and less consideration of their own low condition then the rest of their Neighbours. And indeed such was the Aversion of the Province of Holland to engage in new Broyls with France, that whereas the States had resolv'd for their own Safety to recruit their Land Militia with a Reinforcement of fixteen thousand Men, and requir'd the consent of the several Provinces, the City of Amsterdam would by no means agree to any new Levies; alledging, that the King of France had offer'd an Accommodation, and that it became the King of Spain to accept of such conditions as he could get, fince there was no likelyhood that he could procure better by force of Arms. So that after the long turmoyle and tedious diputes and Expostulations of the public Ministers employ'd from the several Courts of the Princes concern'd, that which over rules all human Affairs, Necessity, which had a great Influence upon the discording Parties at that time, began to incline them to a better understanding of their own conditions.

For these disputes about Pretensions, being set on Foot in the Year 1681. had been bandy'd about till 1684. For the Emperour, though the Ottoman Forces did not appear so formidable as they had done the Year before, yet had he enough to do in Hungary to court new disturbances in other parts: the Affairs of England were all in N 4.

confusion: the King of France found his Treasures too much exhausted to support his usual Numbers. Spain acknowledg'd her self too Feeble to act without the Succors of her Allies. Swedeland long'd for Peace: and if Danemark made Preparations for War, it was rather out of fear then otherwise: the greatest part of the German Princes were no way in a condition to enter into new Broyles, and those that had scap'd best, desired rather an Accomodation: and as for the States General, they had so lately felt the fatal Inconveniences of a long and dangerous War, that they desir'd nothing more then Peace. To which purpose, the last year they had propos'd to their Allies a General congress at the Hague, there to confult about the most immediate means to procure the General repose of Europe, or in case those Consultations fail'd, what measures to take to repel Violence by force. The confequence of which after many Conferences, and delays was this, that the Truce for twenty years offer'd by the King of France should be accepted, including the Allies on both sides. Which being once refolv'd upon, and the Articles of the Treaty agreed the Hague upon the 29th. of June; wherein among other things it was stipulated that the King of France should restore to the King of Spain Courtray and Dixmuyden with their dependencies, the Fortifications being first demolish'd, together with all other places which he had won by force of Arms, since the 30th of August 1683. And other on the side that the King of Spain should Surrender to his most Christian Majesty, Luxemburgh, Beaumont, Bovines and Chimay with the dependencies

and Villages thereto belonging, four after the fame Articles were concluded at Raisbone between the Kings of Spain and France; after which, the Emperour and his most Christian Majesty having reconcil'd their differences by other Articles of the same Nature, a Truce for the same Term was accorded likewise between those two more Powerful Monarchs. Which being not long after ratify'd, though not without some delays on the Spaniards part (so ticklish are the Concession's of nice and jealous Policy) those Devastations began to cease which had layd wast for many years the most fertile Gardens of Europe.

In the midst of these Transactions, which were feldom manag'd by the States but in the presence of his Highness, whose prudence was still consulted in matters of greatest difficulty, it shew'd a Generosity more then Extraordinary, that while others preferr'd Points of Honour before the public Peace, he quitt'd his own Interest, and Post-pon'd the Demands of Reparation for the devastations of his own Demeans and Territories to the Necessities of his Country. For while the King of France. to force upon the still demurring Spaniards, the acceptance of his own conditions lay burning wasting and spoiling the Spanish Netherlands and several of the Adjacent Parts, a considerable part of the Ancient Patrimony belonging to his Highness went to rack in Brabant; Luxemburgh and Burgundy, where the Prince of Isenguyn, supported by the Authority and Arms of the French, had seiz'd upon his large Possessions of Warnesson, Vianden, Daesburgh, Budgenback, St. Vith, and other places, -and

and had put both his Lands and Goods to fale by the Out-crie, as adjudg'd him by the formal Sentence of the Parlament of that Country. Of which though the Provinces of Guelders, Zeland and Utrecht made loud Complaints in his Highnesse's behalf, yet could the Prince obtain no satisfaction.

Nor were the Violences which the French offered to his Principality of Orange, and the damages which his Highness there sustained less severe.

For after the King of France had caus'd his Declarations issu'd out against those in his Kingdom of the reformed Religion, to be put in Execution; the Persecuted People sent their Children to Orange, as being a Sovereign Principality, there to finish the course of their Studies in security. But this displeas'd his most Catholic Majesty; who thereupon sent his Orders to Mr. Moran, Super-Intendant of Provence to march with a Body of above two thousand Men, under the Command of Monsieur Montanegues, the King's Lieutenant General in Languedoc, and Positively to Command the Prince's Magistrates to send away all the Children home again, and not to receive any more for the future into their Academy, or any of their Schools. Which command though it appear'd to the Magistrates very unjust and unreasonable, yet to prevent farther Mischeifs they resolv'd to obey it, promising to admit no more Children, and to write to the Parents of those they had entertain'd, to fend for them back again. By which means they thought they had given full Satisfaction to the King of France's demands. But they were **strangly**

strangly surpriz'd to hear, that during these capitulations, that Montenegues approach'd with his Armed Forces toward the cheif City of the Principality, with absolute orders to break down the Walls of the City. But in short he advanc'd, and having quarter'd eight Companies of Dragoons in the Citizens Houses, where they committed many Disorders and Exactions, and constrain'd as well the Inhabitants of the City as the other Subjects of his Highness's in the Villages round about, to work at the ruin of their own Walls, and the Towers, which were undermind and blown up. All which the People labour'd with so much the more hast and vigour, to the end they might be the fooner rid of those arbitrary Guests, who were said to have vitiated several Virgins already. The news of this being brought to the Prince's Council, they complain'd of it to the States General, as a Breach of the last Peace, desiring them withal to signify their just resentment of these undue and violent Proceedings, to the King of France, and to demand reparation of the damages sustain'd by the Subjects of his Highness, in the midst of a General Peace, and without the least suspition of provocation given.

Accordingly the States General wrote to the King of France to let him understand the great injuries that had been done the Prince of Orange's Subjects, by his sending Armed Souldiers to demolish the Walls of the Cheif City of his Principality, and to extort Mony from the Inhabitants, directly contrary to the last League of Nimeghen; of which they could not be so insensible, as not to inform his Majesty, and to press for reperation

Fation of the damages which the Prince and his Subjects had so illegally and contrary to the Faith of Articles sustained. But all the Answer they could get from the Court of France was only this, that as for the Money extorted from the Inhabitants, it was done without his order, and he had Commanded restitution to be made; that upon the Submission of the People to his Will and Pleasure, he had withdrawn his Forces out of the Principality, and restor'd free Commerce to the Inhabitants according to their Desires; but that as for the rest, he had reason for what he did. Neither was there any thing more done effectually

in this matter for three years together.

Nevertheless so soon as the Truce began to be fet on Foot, the States began to think of disbanding their Supernumerary Forces; and the Deputies of Amsterdam were so hasty as to press the Reformation of the Recruits that had been rais'd the year before it was concluded, but the Memalledging that they ought first to take the Advice of the Prince of Orange, the matter was propounded by the States of Holland his Highness, who gave them for answer among other things, that there Person who desir'd more then himself to ease the People of their Taxes and Contributions; however that he thought it somewhat strange, that they should talk of discontinuing the present State of the War, while the condition of their Affairs was yet so uncertain. Which would be to render them unable either to defend themselves or to Succour their Allies. That as yet the Truce was not concluded, but the War still continu'd

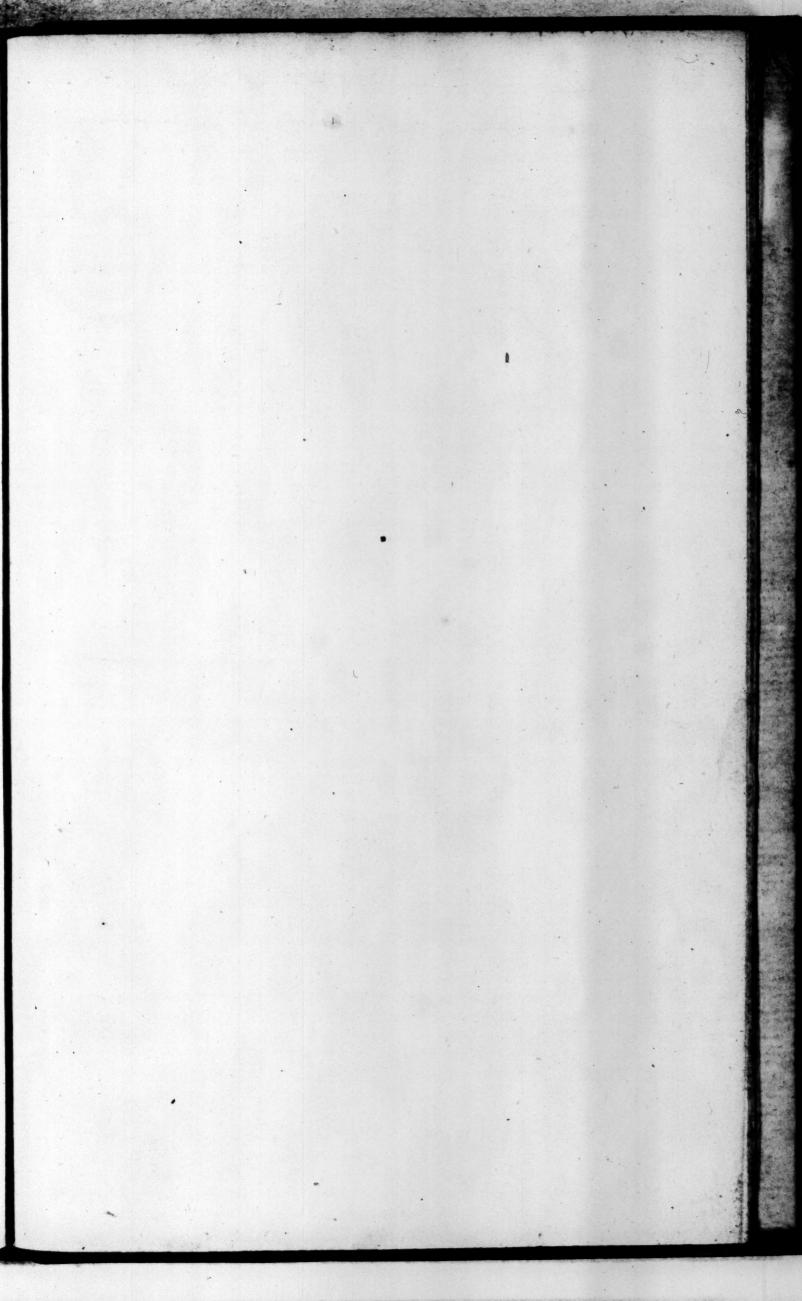
fon the Spanish Netherlands were exposed to Imminent Dangers. That all the Potentates of Europe were still in Arms, especially their Neighbours and therefore that he judged it not so proper to alter the Constitution of their Militia, till they were secure from all sinister Events.

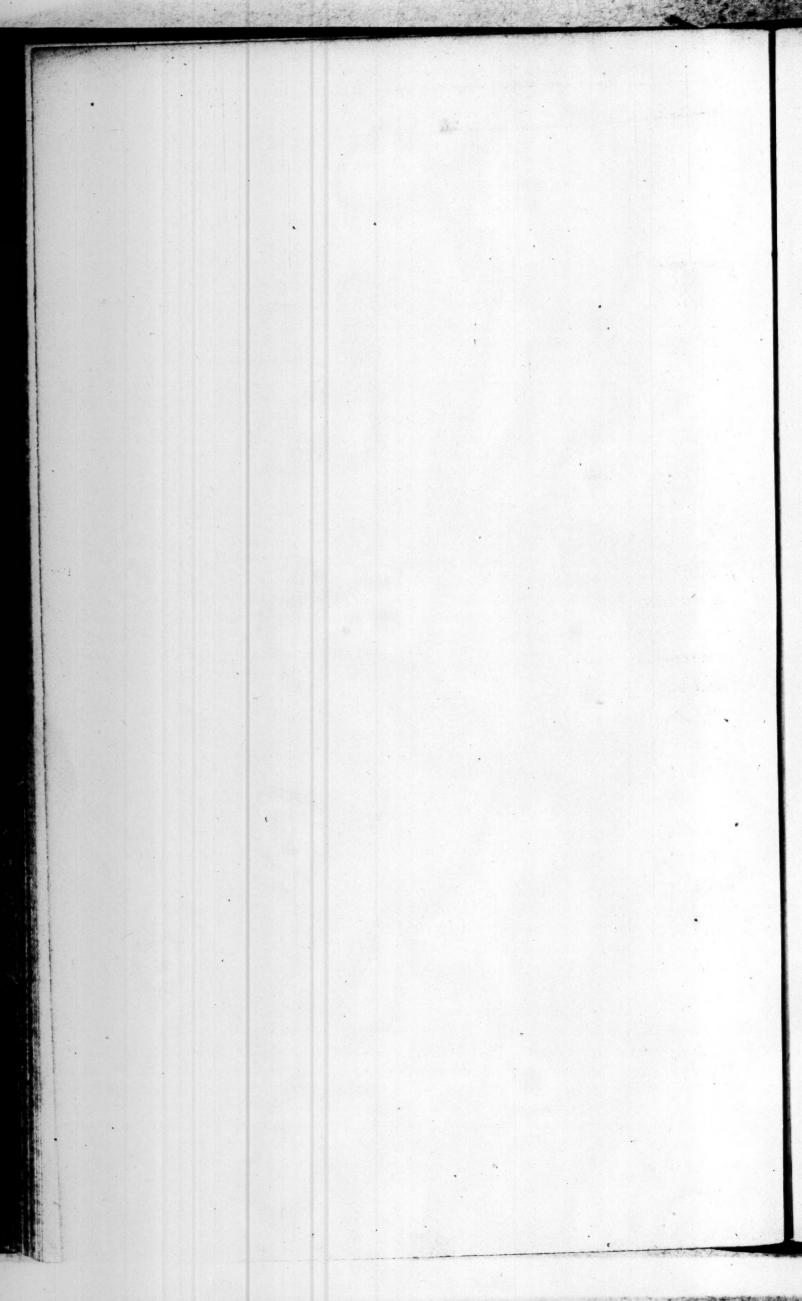
Conformable to this prudent advice of his Highness, the States General resolv'd that their extraordinary Forces should be continu'd from the First of July to the Twentieth of October following. In the mean time, his Highness no less vigilant to prevent Disorders at Home, then to repel foreign Hostility, made it his business to reform the Government of Utricht, by making such alterations in the Magistracy as he deem'd most proper for

the good of the City.

But here we must break off abruptly, having so fair an occasion to make a full stop at the Conclusion of a War. For as for what remains, Time must produce it; and there is no question to be made, but that surviving Pens will never grutch themselves the Honor to compleat the Story of one of the most Renowned Princes of his Age. Of whom a great Minister of State, and one who had been long acquainted with his furpassing Vertues, has given us this Noble Character, which shall serve to conclude this first part of his Life, and excuse me of Flattery, for what I have said already of a Prince, (to use the words of that unquestionable Judge and most Excellent Writer) who Joyn'd to the great Qualities of his Royal Blood, possesses all the popular Virtues of his Country; filent and thoughtful; given to hear and enquire; of a found steady understandunderstanding; much simmers in what he once resolves, or once denys; great industry and application to his Business; Little to his Pleasure; Piety in the Religion of his Country, but with Charity to others; Temperance unusual to his Youth, and to the Climate; Frugal in the Common management of his Fortune, and yet magnificent upon occasion; Of a great Spirit and Heart, aspiring to the Glory of military Actions. With strong Ambition to grow Great, but rather by the Service then Servitude of his Country; In short a Prince of Many Vertues without any appearing Mixture of Vice.

FINIS.





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